

Champions of Public Education in the 134th General Assembly—Not Enough

This message will not resonate with any Statehouse observers less than 60 or 70 years of age.

Back in the day, champions of the public common schools were prevalent in the legislative offices of the Ohio Statehouse—Senator Oliver Ocasek, Senator Mark Roberto, Senator Harry Meshel, Senator Oakley Collins, Representative Myrl Shoemaker, Representative Tom Sawyer, Representative Ben Rose, Representative Mike Shoemaker, Representative Larry Christman, Representative Ron James, Representative Robert Taft, Representative Tom Johnson, Representative Fred Deering, Representative Dwight Wise, Representative Jim Betts, to name a few.

Those listed above were about evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. Their service overlapped in the 1970's and 1980's. They were broadly recognized as champions of the public common school.

Ohio needs legislators of the same ilk today--champions of the public common school system who would not permit traditional public school funds to be transferred to the non-transparent, unaccountable private sector.

There are some champions of public education in the 134th General Assembly, but not enough strategically placed to stop the insane transfer of K-12 funds to the private sector.