

**School vouchers by any other name are still vouchers.**

Vouchers don't poll well for voucher advocates. So, they call vouchers scholarships. The folks, the taxpayers, were not deceived by the scholarship label. It is still tax money diverted to private purpose (i.e.) private schools. Then the voucherites changed the payments to private schools by a mechanism know as tuition tax credits—a reduction in tax liability in the amount of tuition paid.

There is more, Education Savings Accounts. This renamed voucher scheme provides for direct payments to parents of students that allow the parents to purchase some kind of education somewhere, somehow.

What a way to run a railroad. Transparency and accountability of tax money being used is out the window.

And then there's the charter industry. The charter industry is rife with fraud and corruption, school closures with little to no notice, and sky-high profits at the expense of the students that are allegedly being served. ECOT comes to mind. William Lager, the ECOT Man, fleeced taxpayers to the tune of \$60 million in just one year. (Estimate of a half billion over time.) Lack of transparency and accountability in these privately operated, tax funded charters is the reason for the mischief in the charter industry.

What is the endgame of the privatizers? Simply to divert all tax funds allocated to education from the public.

Will governors, state legislators, presidents or members of congress actually start to seriously regulate these privatization ventures? The past record of deregulation is not encouraging. Will these public officials re-direct education funds to the public sector? Again, the past record is not encouraging.