

**The master plan for the privatization of public education utilizes different tools and devices but each has a laser focus on the plan's privatization objective. The tools and devices have similarities and differences.**

Education privatizers recognize that the great American common school system is supported by a vast majority of the citizens; hence they are engaging various wordsmithing tactics and nefarious actions to denigrate the public system as a tactic to accomplish the transfer of education funds from the public to the private domain. It is important for public common school advocates to understand the similarities and differences in the various language nuances they use and the mechanisms they use to transfer public money into private hands.

### Charter schools

Charter schools are often referred to as community schools. Ohio law labels charters as community schools. Community gives the impression that these schools are common to all, which is antithetical to the purpose of chartering.

Charter schools are funded with tax money but are privately operated. These entities, along with their sponsors and management companies, are shielded from most of the relevant accountability and transparency rules and regulations.

### Vouchers

Vouchers have never been approved in statewide balloting in any state in the Union. Privatizers, hence, began their voucher campaign by using the scholarship label. They began their promotion efforts by floating the propaganda that the voucher scheme would rescue poor students from low-performing school districts and give them the same opportunity for private schooling as wealthy kids. That was a ruse to mask the real intent of the campaign, which is a universal voucher program.

The voucher is a legislative-established amount of money, currently \$7500 per high school student that parents use to pay tuition to a private school that permitted their school-age student to enroll.

Another form of vouchers is the tuition tax credit scheme. This scheme currently allows an individual to reduce tax liability by the amount of \$750 per individual toward private education expenses or donation to a private school. This scheme reduces the revenue collected by government.

Still another voucher gimmick is the Education Savings Account (ESA). Under this scheme, parents receive a deposit of public funds into a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses. These funds can be used to pay for such items as tuition and fees, online programs, private tutoring, and education services and products as specified by law.

### Conclusion

Public education advocates must understand that the goal of privatizers is not to compete with the traditional public system, but to defund it completely. Privatizers use multiple gimmicks to accomplish their goal of the complete privatization of public education. No doubt they will find even more nefarious ways to do so.