

The “transparency” probe of school districts supporting the EdChoice voucher lawsuit by the Auditor of State (AOS) is harassment in violation of Section 2921.03 ORC. The AOS should be consistent and probe how private schools have received nearly \$1.7 billion in direct state payments and vouchers.

The Senate President requested the AOS to “survey” school districts to determine the amount that each district has paid the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding for the EdChoice voucher litigation. (That would be for fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023) That information is available from the Coalition’s treasurer. So why is the AOS contacting districts? Harassment. That is tantamount to witness intimidation since this matter is being litigated. Section 2921.03 ORC forbids this kind of intimidation.

It should be of interest to the public that private schools, during the 3 year period of fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, have received \$680 million in nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement and auxiliary services. Voucher payments have accrued to in the range of \$1 billion during that period. Transportation costs borne by school districts have accrued to multiplied millions of dollars.

There is no state audit of private schools. Why are state officials so interested in a few thousand dollars in school district litigation fees and not interested in a billion dollars in taxpayer money going to private schools the last 3 fiscal years?