

**Universal vouchers not enough for the Senate President. He wants to provide state assistance to build new buildings for private schools.**

A July 18 Columbus Dispatch article indicates that the Senate President is mulling over a plan to provide tax assistance to private schools for buildings. His facility idea is in its nascent stage, but he believes he can convince his colleagues to support it. The Senate President told the Dispatch: “When I started down my school choice stuff 15 years ago, one of the big opposition groups were rural Republicans, but they watched what was going on during COVID and these cultures wars. I think they are now on my side.”

The Senate President’s ultimate goal seems to be replacing the public system with private school ventures. Word on the street is that he aspires to be Speaker of the House when he leaves the Senate. That will give him time and opportunity to explode funding for privates and defund the publics.

Ohioans have a choice. We can allow those who have rigged the rules to stay in power to the end that the public good be diminished or we can embrace Article I, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution; All political power is inherent in the people. Will we sit idly by while controlling state officials destroy public education and the public good?

P.S. In addition to universal vouchers, Ohio taxpayers are providing the following direct payments to private schools:

- State Budget line item 200511 auxiliary services:  
FY24: \$162,928,000  
FY25: \$166,853,000
- State Budget line item 2002532 non-public administrative cost reimbursement:  
FY24: \$73,607,000  
FY25: \$75,381,000
- Also, public school districts spend tens of millions on student transportation to private schools.