

CC3635 10.10.23 Tuesday

Barry Alcock, an Education Service Center (ESC) Board of Education member: Exponential growth of universal vouchers will drive property tax sky high.

Barry Alcock sent a letter to the Coalition with permission to use it. A version of the letter was published in the September 24 [Columbus Dispatch](#).

Mr. Alcock's explicit statement that universal vouchers will drive up property tax is correct. EdChoice voucher payments are made out of the same state budget line-item that funds school districts and charters. State officials in the recent state budget have given vouchers and charter schools a funding priority over school districts. That funding trajectory will continue due to the intense pressure school privatization zealots continue to apply to state officials. School districts will be further starved by shortfalls in state funding, which will drive up the need for property tax funding.

To the Editor:

If you think your property taxes are going sky high now, just wait until universal private school voucher expansion hits exponential growth as predicted by Senate President Matt Huffman in the Dispatch article "1000 applications a day: Ohio's new universal voucher program exceeds cost estimates" (Sept.13, 2023).

One billion in public tax dollars paying for private and religious school tuition will turn into 2 billion... 2 billion to 4 billion...4 billion to 16 billion and so on.

Our precious property taxes cannot fully fund public, private, religious and charter schools; four separate systems of education in Ohio.

Our country was founded on the principle of separation of church and state. Ohio's constitution states that public tax dollars are for one system of common public schools only.

Local public school districts, including Worthington, Columbus, Bexley, Westerville, Reynoldsburg, Gahanna Jefferson and South-Western City Schools are joining 250 public school districts in the Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit against the state of Ohio.

Hundreds of Ohio public school districts are seeing the writing on the wall; the state paying billions of dollars a year for private school tuition will bankrupt local property taxpayers and bleed Ohio's public school districts dry.

Barry Alcock, Groveport