

**Ohio is giving nonpublic schools \$73 million this school year for nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement: How do nonpublic schools determine their administrative costs to be reimbursed?**

About four decades ago, some lobbyists and state officials figured out how to give private schools some tax money without alarming the public. They seemed to have reasoned that it costs non-public schools money to do business in Ohio, and Ohio taxpayers should bear the administrative costs of doing business. How would those costs be determined?

A comprehensive analysis of each nonpublic school's finances and a determination of the per pupil amount for administrative costs might have been one approach; another approach might have been to pull a number out of the air.

A hint of how the number was calculated was when one of Governor Voinovich's budget recommendations doubled the appropriations for nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement from one year to the next.

Another giveaway to nonpublic schools is the Auxiliary Services Program. This program costs Ohio taxpayers \$163 million this school year. And of course, there is the universal voucher program.