

Why private school EdChoice vouchers are unconstitutional in Ohio.

The Ohio Constitution is straightforward regarding state responsibility for education--secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools and prohibit religious or other sects from controlling any part of the school funds of the state. (Article VI, Section 2)

The Ohio school EdChoice voucher system contradicts the clear language of the Ohio Constitution in multiple ways.

The lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher scheme is going forward with the following claims:

Count 1

The creation of one or more systems of uncommon schools is unconstitutional. Funding for the EdChoice private school voucher program comes from the same line-item in the two-year state budget that funds public schools. Each public tax dollar that goes to private schools is a dollar less for public schools. That's unconstitutional.

Count 2

Lawmakers have failed to adequately fund a thorough and efficient system. Private school vouchers force local school districts to raise local taxes through levies to make up the reduction in state dollars. That's unconstitutional.

Count 3

Private school vouchers make segregation in public schools worse. Private schools take public tax dollars while applying litmus tests to pick and choose their students based on academics, athletics, disciplinary records, financial status, race, and religion. That's unconstitutional.

Count 4

No religious or other sect shall ever have any exclusive right to or control of any part of the school funds of the state. It's there in black and white in the Ohio Constitution. More than 90 percent of private schools in Ohio are parochial with hundreds of millions of dollars going to sectarian schools. That's unconstitutional.

Count 5

Ohio citizens hold all power under the Ohio Constitution. When we are successful, state lawmakers will not be permitted to fund the harmful private school voucher program or any other separate, but unequal system of schools. The EdChoice private school voucher program is unconstitutional.

It is a certainty that the EdChoice voucher scheme is not in accord with the education provision of the Ohio Constitution.