

**Economist Milton Friedman in a 2002 interview: “And that in the ideal society, parents would be responsible for schooling their children, just as they're responsible for feeding them.”**

Economist Milton Friedman is considered by many as the father of private school vouchers. During the 1950s, Friedman began advocating that government get out of the function of education, except for providing a private school voucher for each student. During an interview with Pearl Rock Kane (Teachers College, Columbia University) in 2002, however, Friedman indicated that in his opinion schooling should be the responsibility of parents.

The question for citizens, particularly for voucher users is: What is the agenda of the voucher puppeteers who are pulling the strings in the voucher campaign? Are they using tax supported vouchers as the first step toward total parental responsibility for funding the education of their own children just as voucher father Friedman recommended in 2002?

Many of the readers of this post will not agree that universal vouchers present an existential threat to public schools. Consider, however, that the Cleveland Voucher Program started as a pilot project that, without evidence that the project had merit, has expanded to the universal eligibility stage. Beyond universal vouchers in Ohio law, some political leaders are ramping up the voucher scheme with proposals to divert more funds from school districts to the private sector. Such tactics as tuition tax credits, Education Savings Accounts, tax funding for non-tax, non-public schools, and capital funding for private schools are on the table. Of course, increasing the value of vouchers is an ongoing process. After the public system is decimated, the disciples of Friedman will convince politicians to wean parents from vouchers in a movement toward the Friedman ideal of parents being financially responsible for the education of their own children.