

HB339 would give parents funds for their children to attend non-chartered, non-tax schools (also called 08 schools) that loathe government regulation.

While serving as superintendent eons ago (1960's and 1970's), I attempted to enforce the compulsory attendance laws. That was before homeschooling (1989) and non-chartered, non-tax supported schools (also called 08 schools) were authorized (1983). One such enforcement attempt led me to a dilapidated barn that was hardly suitable for livestock. The "school" operator dismissed me as an agent of Caesar, while he asserted himself as an agent of the Lord. He argued that it was his right to hold some kind of school in the barn.

As noted above, Ohio authorized the non-charted, non-tax supported schools in 1983. These schools are essentially non-regulated. A member of the House of Representatives wants to fund parents who send their children to these 08 schools via Education Savings Accounts.

The irony of this proposal is that the legislator wants to give government money to schools that loathe all government regulations.

Education Savings Accounts are another form of vouchers. Some Ohio politicians have an insatiable appetite for privatization of public education.

Ohio bill would provide savings accounts for kids attending non-chartered religious schools.

The Statehouse News Bureau | By [Jo Ingles](#)

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Rep. Gary Click (R-Vickery) testified to an Ohio House Committee about his bill to provide educational savings accounts to children in non-chartered schools on January 16, 2023

An Ohio House committee is considering [a new bill](#) designed to help those who don't qualify for that money by allowing the creation of educational savings accounts for children attending non-chartered schools - most of which are religious.

There are about 70 private non-chartered brick-and-mortar schools in Ohio that students attend, usually for religious education, said Rep. Gary Click (R-Vickery), who is a pastor. He explained because those schools don't want to comply with a government mandate that they believe is against their religious beliefs, they cannot be chartered.

When lawmakers passed the \$86 billion, two-year [state budget](#) last year, they expanded the EdChoice voucher program. Now, nearly all Ohio students can get public money to offset their costs for private school, even those who've never attended public schools. But Click said that non-chartered status means parents of those students cannot take advantage of those state-paid vouchers to offset the cost of private education.

"This means that their parents continue to pay twice for education; once through taxation and the second time through tuition," Click said.

Click said educational savings accounts for students in non-chartered schools could be used to purchase goods and services as well as tuition.

During the first [hearing on the bill](#) in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Forest Park) seized on the idea that the money could be misused.

"We have seen how this works in other states. In Arizona, for instance, families who used ESA funds were using said taxpayer funds to buy things like grand pianos, video games and other high-ticket items," Miranda said. "And then I heard recently, in Florida where they are using this program, there are families who are literally getting approval to get Disney World annual passes because they were calling that an educational expense for their children."

Click said he "would agree that would be irresponsible." Click said his bill contains a requirement that receipts be provided and he said there are safeguards in the process.

Click said this bill would not allow for homeschooling families to get these funds, although he added he would like to see homeschoolers get some state money in the future.

Scott DiMauro, president of the Ohio Education Association, the state's largest teachers union, said the state needs to focus its attention on public schools, where 90% of students attend.

"This is one more voucher bill that will subsidize families who are sending their kids to private schools with zero oversight and accountability," DiMauro said.

DiMauro said the OEA will be opposing the bill.

[Ohio bill would provide savings accounts for kids attending non-chartered religious schools | The Statehouse News Bureau \(statenews.org\)](#)