

A large flock of people in support of HB339 want tax money for private schools that eschew all government regulations, transparency, accountability, and oversight.

A large contingent of folks showed up at the Statehouse on February 13 to support HB339—a bill that authorizes tax revenue to be used to pay tuition to a category of private schools that currently operate without a state-issued charter. These non-chartered, non-public schools (also known as O8 schools) receive no tax funds for administrative cost reimbursement, auxiliary services and transportation provided by school districts in exchange for operating with no government oversight; thus, from any regulations, transparency, and accountability.

One proponent of HB339, in response to a question from a legislator during the hearing, said that being non-chartered best reflects the proper relationship between education and the state. In other words, the state should hand out tax money to any group that wants to organize some kind of totally unregulated education entity.

This kind of policy would open the public treasury to any and all groups, even those with nefarious ideologies, including anti-government and hate groups. Recently, a private school group in Ohio was found to be teaching Nazism extolling the virtues of Adolf Hitler and his socio-political ideology and practices.