

March 4 updated Cleveland.com: Fleeing troubled public schools? Ohio voucher data shows many families already enrolled in private schools.

Reporter Laura Hancock provides data showing that the Cuyahoga County school districts are generally not experiencing a loss of students, but voucher students from most of the districts skyrocketed between school year 2023-2024 and the previous year. The highest increase in voucher students was 1831% in Rocky River. The total voucher users from Cuyahoga County districts in 2022-2023 was 2489 compared to 9189 in 2023-2024 or an increase of 369.18%. With public school enrollment essentially stable, it is obvious that the universal voucher scheme is merely subsidizing tuition for students that had already been enrolled in private schools.

According to the article, Senator Andrew Brenner responded that lawmakers anticipated that families already in private schools would take advantage of new eligibility. So much for the rhetoric that the purpose of vouchers is to rescue students from academically-challenged school districts.

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[Laura Hancock covers state government and politics for The Plain Dealer and cleveland.com.](#)