

The public common school system is geographically based.

The Land Ordinance of 1785 (before Ohio statehood) set aside the 16th section of each township for the support of schools. Townships were surveyed into 36-mile squares. Each township was divided into 36 sections. Each section was 1-mile square or 640 acres. Hence, each township school district was entitled to the income from 640 acres.

In 1824, the Ohio legislature established the legal framework for tax-supported public schools and public governance. The Legislature's policies regarding school lands were conducive to squandering and misuse; thus the "school lands" were never a substantial source of revenue.

By the time of the 1850/1851 Constitutional Convention, public school districts were beginning to thrive. The constitutional provision requiring the state to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools advanced educational programming and student opportunities. Every child of school age was entitled to a tax-supported education within the geographic area of residence.

Fast forward to 2024, there is a serious campaign to replace public schooling with private schooling. This egregious, nefarious movement will result in multitudes of children having no guarantee of high-quality educational opportunities. The market-driven system will guarantee winners and losers. The losers will be those on the lower end of the economic scale.