

**The composition of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and future general assemblies elected in the current gerrymandered districts will continue the expansion of the EdChoice voucher scheme and add new privatization schemes that diminish school districts.**

The current Senate President, when named the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Legislator of the Week in 2017 stated: "I am extremely proud of my work on House Bill 136 in the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which led to the establishment of the income-based school voucher program in 2013...that legislation is an important step in my overarching goal of providing true choice for every student in Ohio, including smooth transferability of funds and a robust set of options regardless of geography and family situation."

HB36 of the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly would have provided vouchers for about 2/3 of Ohio students. It met with robust opposition within both legislative halls and the general public. Ongoing, unfair excoriation of traditional public schools, in concert with the practice of sliding voucher expansion into state budget bills in the dead of night, have climaxed in the universal voucher scheme. This voucher expansion was jammed in the current state budget passed in June 2023 with no opportunity for the public to respond.

The Senate President's run for the position of Speaker of the House next year has been made public. He has announced his intent to help the spread of private schools into the rural areas by providing capital funds for private school buildings.

Those who really believe they can stop this voucher frenzy via testifying in legislative hearings may not be familiar with the nefarious 11<sup>th</sup> hour maneuver of thrusting voucher expansion into budget bills when public input is impossible.

The litigation to challenge the unconstitutionality of the EdChoice voucher program is the only game in town.