

Lt. Governor Husted’s January 10, 2022 “spin” about vouchers after the voucher litigation was filed on January 4, 2022—Effective for what is the question.

After the constitutional challenge to the EdChoice voucher program was filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court on January 4, 2022, Lt. Governor Husted told the Statehouse News Bureau that “the EdChoice voucher program began as a way to help students in struggling school districts and the program is still effective.” The current universal EdChoice voucher program is very effective in subsidizing students who were already tuition-paying students, most of whom never attended a public school.

Husted was Speaker of the House when the EdChoice voucher program was hatched. His take on the scheme nearly two decades later was reported in the January 10, 2022, Statehouse News Bureau: “When we focus on the kids, usually education conversations are easy. When we focus on the adults, that’s when they get complicated. And this is about adults fighting over control and resources, not about what children and families want,” he said.

In 2024 the EdChoice voucher scheme focuses primarily on students in affluent districts who had already been enrolled in private schools. The recently expanded voucher scheme has not reduced public school attendance very much.

Mr. Husted’s statement, “When we focus on the kids, usually education conversations are easy. When we focus on the adults, that’s when they get complicated” is of interest.

Focusing on the kids. There is no evidence that voucher students perform any better academically than their peers in the district of residence. The current voucher emphasis is not on students in struggling districts. Additionally, as funds are removed from the state budget line item that funds school districts, is Mr. Husted concerned about the constitutionally-required common school that serves about 90% of the school kids? It is not efficient for the state to fund two systems of K-12 education.

Regarding the focus on adults, Why did the adults in Mr. Husted’s political circle carry out a hostile takeover of the State Board of Education which is required in the Ohio Constitution? That illegal political maneuver was all about adults. It had nothing to do with kids. It was a power play that disenfranchised the parents of the school kids and the general public from the political process.

[Husted defends Ohio private school voucher program facing legal challenge | The Statehouse News Bureau \(statenews.org\)](https://www.statenews.org/news/2022/01/10/husted-defends-ohio-private-school-voucher-program-facing-legal-challenge)