

The Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan brought the State of Ohio to a paramount moment in Ohio history—on the cusp of fulfilling the 1851 constitutional provision for a thorough and efficient system of common schools—but...

The Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan is a result of knowledgeable, highly effective superintendents and treasurers being brought together by two highly competent legislators committed to Ohio's constitutional provision to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools. The approach and strategies of the committed framers of the plan resulted in the framework for a constitutional system of public common schools. The approach—determine the components of a high-quality education for the various types of students, cost out those components, and develop a formula for distributing sufficient state resources to school districts to provide the identified educational components.

The finale--sufficient state funding to implement the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan is being undermined by the nefarious universal voucher scheme. Ohio had and still has the financial resources to completely implement the Cupp/Patterson plan; however, there is one giant obstacle—the infatuation of EdChoice vouchers on the part of certain legislators.

The funding formula is not being fully funded because a billion-dollar slice of school funding is being siphoned off for the unconstitutional EdChoice voucher scheme; hence the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan is being phased in. Districts are losing hundreds of millions each via the phase-in strategy. The phase-in strategy has the potential of damaging the funding plan beyond repair.

There is more than one historical example of an effectual school funding plan dying on the third base.

In the mid and second half of the 1970's, Ohio commissioned a major school finance study that had the potential to meet the constitutional standard of a thorough and efficient system of common schools. The study was conducted by a prestigious group of school finance experts. The legislature adopted the plan—the Equal Yield Formula—but state officials left it die on third base. THEY PHASED IT IN—29% THE FIRST YEAR; 40% THE SECOND YEAR; 79% THE THIRD YEAR AND THE PLAN DIED THE FOURTH YEAR.

And then in this generation, the evidence-based model of school funding was put together during the Strickland administration in the midst of the great recession. Representative Steve Dyer was a key actor in formulating this model. It was an efficacious model, but the Kasich administration dumped it and replaced it with nothing—no formula.

These two valiant attempts should inform current state officials to fully fund a constitutionally-required thorough and efficient system of common schools.

A few voucher zealots in the legislature have the potential to forestall the implementation of a constitutional system of common schools by their infatuation with the unconstitutional universal EdChoice voucher debacle. Sad!

[Join](#) the Coalition/Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit.