

The universal voucher campaign and the incessant attacks on the public common school system are companion projects.

The voucher movement and the campaign to eliminate the public common school system are fundamentally ONE.

In 1983 when President Reagan spoke about his Nation at Risk report, he said he was pleased that vouchers were recommended. (There is no mention of vouchers in the report.)

Nation at Risk was intended to be an excoriation of the public common school system. Reagan didn't like public education. He had a particular disdain for teachers' unions.

President George H.W. Bush was a voucher enthusiast. Governor George Voinovich invited Bush-41 to speak to a group of school students and adults on November 25, 1991, in Columbus, Ohio. ([Kimmins](#)). I personally heard the President say that Ohio has started an open enrollment program and now needs to go the whole nine yards and give a voucher to every student.

Reagan and Bush seemed to be in tune with Economist Milton Friedman who, in the 1950's during the era of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v Board of Education*, advocated that the only role of government in K-12 education should be to provide students with a voucher for private schools.

Voinovich appointed a Parent Choice Committee to study the voucher concept. The handpicked committee recommended that every board of education authorize and pay for private school vouchers; this recommendation fell flat but Voinovich worked with the legislature to enact the Cleveland Voucher Program.

In the following decades, the voucher vision of Friedman, Reagan, Bush-41, Voinovich, and others of kindred spirit came together when Governor DeWine signed HB33 on July 4, 2023.

The takeaway of this narrative is that beginning with Friedman, the goal of the voucher zealots has been to eliminate the public common school system.

[President Bush on America 2000 Education Initiatives | C-SPAN.org](#)

Kimmins, Dick. "Bush: Give Private Schools Money. Ohio Audience Wary of Proposal." *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 26 Nov. 1991, p. 1