

PRIVATIZATION OF EDUCATION WILL “DUMB-DOWN” AMERICA.

Private schools are not transparent to the public; neither are they accountable to the taxpayers. Compared to school districts, private schools are unregulated and charter schools are grossly under-regulated. Homeschooling and non-chartered, non-tax, private, religious schools are shielded from any public oversight, transparency, and accountability.

The proliferation of privatized schooling will keep the public in the dark regarding the quality of the educational programming and services. Without state policies that pull back the curtain on private schooling ventures, the scope and quality of educational opportunities will diminish because tax money, rather than private money, will be guaranteed; thus, private operators will not be concerned with quality of programs, services, and results. They will receive public funds regardless.

Immediately after Ohioans adopted the 1851 Constitution which included the state's responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, the legislature began enacting statutes aimed at improving educational opportunities and outcomes via the public common school system. That process continues today, except that state officials in recent decades have carved out slices of public education funds for the private sector, which is largely without public oversight, transparency and accountability—the perfect storm that will “dumb-down” education in the state and throughout the nation.