

Consequences of universal vouchers that should alarm taxpayers.

The state policy of giving a voucher to everyone who wants one (and to those who don't necessarily want one but are pressured by their private school leadership to take one) hurts Ohio—taxpayers, public school students, public school employees, school districts, voucher students, private schools.

Every Ohioan is negatively affected by the universal EdChoice voucher scheme.

Taxpayers are forced to pay for two systems of education rather than just the common school system authorized and mandated by the Ohio Constitution. This is an inefficient debacle. The voucher industry removes students from the public system, often causing under-enrolled school buildings which boards of education must close. This situation will be exacerbated by the voucher advocates' demand for taxpayer-funded private school facilities. The recently adopted state capital improvement bill provided tax funds for facilities at 6 private schools—a foot-in-the-door tactic. Do state officials not understand the consequences of the voucher explosion, or have they embraced the Koch/ALEC/DeVos campaign to destroy the constitutionally-required public common school?

The voucher expansion will eventually defund the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) and the School Employee Retirement System (SERS). Is that by design?

Research studies indicate that voucher students do not perform academically as well as their peers in the public system. Are state officials not concerned about academic performance?

The universal EdChoice voucher scheme is putting private schools in harm's way. The public will ultimately demand that private schools being funded directly and via vouchers be required to follow the same laws and regulations as public school. This will compromise or completely alter the mission for which the private school was initiated.

In a nutshell, Vouchers Hurt Ohio. Where is the outrage?