

Rosemary Tolliver weighs-in on school vouchers and the hijacking of the State Board of Education

In a July 11 LTE to the Columbus Dispatch, Rosemary Tolliver, as a retired educator, school administrator and daughter of the 56th Governor of Ohio, Thomas J. Herbert, expresses concern about the direction of some critical education policies.

Vouchers dangerous to Ohio

I used to be able to contact my elected member of the Ohio State Board of Education, but I am no longer represented at Ohio's Department of Education and Workforce.

The letterhead for its public meeting agenda lists only the governor, lieutenant governor and an appointed director.

As a retired educator, I would tell them I object to the growing use of state tax revenue for vouchers that support religious schools.

Vouchers began as an experiment to give parents in Cleveland a choice, and years later there's little evidence to support their effectiveness in helping students reach educational excellence.

Increasingly, vouchers are going to parents who already were paying tuition for private schooling. At this rate the only students remaining in public schools will be those whose behavior and/or disabilities make them unwelcome in most private schools.

Teachers in private schools do not contribute to the State Teachers Retirement System, which used to be one of the best retirement systems in the country. So, it's no wonder that state officials are worried about the system's integrity and longevity.

I applaud local elected school board members who are supporting Vouchers Hurt Ohio litigation and I urge everyone to protect our public schools.

Rosemary Tolliver, Columbus

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