

State Senator Andy Brenner proposes closing ineffective public schools.

When you think you have heard the ultimate in doltish, witless, education policy proposals, tune into State Senator Brenner's performance at the recent Council of State Government's Midwestern Legislative Conference. The Senate Education Committee chair pontificated that we can theoretically "close down ineffective public schools". This is a great idea for the anti-public education crowd. The formula for doing so is obvious—starve the school districts of funding by giving funds to underregulated private schools; build more private schools with state revenue; fund non-tax, totally unregulated, non-chartered private schools; and destroy local community control of school districts.

The constitutional provision requiring the state to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools seems to be lost on the Senate Education Committee chair. The Honorable State Senator seems not to understand that it is the state's responsibility to ensure that school districts are successful; not to close them.