

Representative Joe Miller responded to Senate Education Committee Chair Brenner's proposal to close "ineffective public schools".

The August 2 post on this site reported State Senator Brenner's proposal that "ineffective public schools be closed" during a panel discussion at the Council of State Government's Midwest Legislative Conference. Representative Joe Miller responded to the Brenner proposal by referencing the Ohio Constitution's mandate for public education. He also rightly suggested that legislators should focus on improving the living conditions and environment of communities so that children will be ready to learn when they enter school.

Test scores are typically a function of demographics; hence by improving the environment and living conditions in communities, the test scores and overall performance of schools will improve. Underperformance of school districts as perceived by Senator Brenner cannot be remedied by closing public school districts. They need life-support, not a death sentence.