

Tax-funded transportation of private school students is largely hidden from the public.

Ohio taxpayers are burdened with private school student transportation costs. The school district of residence of each private school student is required to bear the cost of transporting that private school student residing in the district.

So how did this taxpayer burden develop? On February 10, 1947, the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Everson v Board of Education* case ruled that the state of New Jersey was authorized to reimburse the cost of transportation for students in parochial schools, notwithstanding the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Twenty-one years later, Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes signed the so-called Fair Bus Bill that requires school districts to transport private school students. Prior to the *Everson* case, financial support of parochial schools was forbidden. Since the *Everson* decision, a foot-in-the-door moment, Ohio, like many other states, began to force taxpayers to fund private school student transportation.

The cost of private school transportation just got increased by the passage of the universal voucher law via the most recent state budget bill (HB33). Some school districts are transporting more voucher and charter school students than school district students.

Most parochial school students are transported by the district's transportation system. However, the law allows in-lieu of payments if a private school student must be transported for more than 30 minutes to the private school they are attending. Because of different start times among the school districts and various private schools, transportation scheduling can be a nightmare.

The Attorney General seized yet another headline by [suing](#) Columbus City School district regarding the private school transportation issue.