

“Irrigation of ‘voucher deserts’” in rural Ohio has been started by the senate president.

Voucher zealots are not satisfied to merely subsidize the tuition of existing private schools. Their goal is to expand voucher demand by providing tax incentives to establish new private schools. They are ruminating on a plan to force taxpayers to support the construction, as well as the operation of private schools particularly in rural communities. “Voucher deserts” in rural areas need “irrigated” is a new key plank in their voucherization platform.

Public schools, especially rural public schools, are centers of community life. Erosion of rural common schools will devastate rural communities.

After the Senate President in Ohio achieved his goal of universal vouchers, he made public statements about tax-supported facilities, particularly in rural areas. This voucher craze is, of course, unconstitutional; it is likewise fraud on the public. The foot-in-the-door strategy was included in the latest capital improvements bill. Several religious private schools and other religious organizations were awarded capital improvements grants.

What motivates the Senate President and legislators of his ilk to expand the demand for more vouchers by “irrigating” “private school deserts” in rural areas? Is it to improve educational opportunities? It doesn’t! Is it a power play by particular politicians? It is! Is it an evangelistic effort at public expense? It is! Is it to improve community life? It will not! Is it to enhance the public good? It will not!

Ohioans must weigh-in on this “voucher expansion campaign”. It is an existential threat to public school districts.