

Tax-funded education privatization schemes—vouchers, including Tuition Tax Credits and Education Savings Accounts—and charter schools are economically inefficient and diminish high-quality educational opportunities for many students.

Ohio reorganized school districts from about 3000 into 617 districts from 1913 to 1976. The 10,000 Ohio one-room school buildings in the early 1900's were reduced to a couple buildings located on Lake Erie islands in 1976. The school reorganization efforts effectuated significant economies of scale and improved educational opportunities. The impetus for this large-scale reorganization was rooted in the education provisions in the Ohio Constitution—Article VI, section 2 (1851) and Article VI, section 3 (1912). Additionally, in 1953 Ohioans voted to remove state level education decisions from partisan politics by establishing the State Board of Education which removed the state education agency from the Governor's office.

Fast forward to 2024. All of these constitutional provisions have been undermined by duplicitous legislative enactments, the result being: 1) inefficient use of tax revenues 2) the “dumbing down” of K-12 education and 3) declining of educational opportunities.

The recent legislation to transfer the State Board of Education functions to the Governor's office was most likely motivated by voucher zealous legislators bent on removing the voice of the people in the voucher debate. The Governor's Education Department will enable the voucher campaign.

How efficient is it to close school district buildings and to fund capital projects for charter and private schools? How efficient is it to fund a multitude of systems rather than one? How can state officials justify a tax-supported arrangement that highly regulates the common school system, somewhat regulates charter schools, and delicately regulates private schools? (Non-tax, non-public schools and homeschooling are totally unregulated.)

A more egregious result of this proliferation of schooling is the erosion of the social compact—the loss of the public cohesion of community, the loss of the body politic, and the diminution of the public good.

What are these public officials thinking?