

The Attorney General of Ohio in a lawsuit against the Columbus Board of Education and a September 6 article by Fordham Institute indicate a lack of understanding of the logistics of transporting students to voucher and charter schools.

Some realities of student transportation in large city school districts

- School districts are required to provide transportation for district students attending private and charter schools in accordance with state law and administrative code.
- Bus driver shortage
- School buses are expensive
- High cost of school buses and operation of student transportation require districts to be as efficient as possible. Transportation of charter and private school students is inherently inefficient and very costly.

Columbus operates over 100 school buildings and has students attending about the same number of charter and voucher schools.

Columbus has no control of the “bell time” of charter and private schools. (Columbus must deal with up to 40 different “bell times” among charters and privates that must be served.) The state levies a fine on school districts that cannot accommodate the “bell time” of charters and privates.

Without adding an inordinate and unaffordable number of buses and drivers to the student transportation system, it is a logistical nightmare to accommodate the “bell time” of all the charters and voucher schools.

What is the motivation for the Attorney General in suing the district?

Then comes all-knowing and all-wise Fordham Institute writing such vitriolic statements as, “The Columbus school board and superintendent have chosen to defy state law in a brazen attempt to deny transportation to students who attend public charter or private schools.” Such a statement regarding this matter could come only from a person that has no understanding of the logistics of student transportation in large cities.

[By refusing to bus students, Columbus City Schools sinks to a new low \(fordhaminstitute.org\)](http://fordhaminstitute.org)