

**“Public education dollars should follow the student, not the system” say the anti-public education die-hards.**

The Constitution of every state in the union has a distinct provision for public education. Why? Because when state constitutions were written and adopted, political leaders and folks in general understood that the public school system is essential for promoting the common good. They understood that promoting the general welfare is critical.

The preamble of the US Constitution indicates that the general welfare of the people is one of the reasons for establishing the Constitution. Education for all in a common system is essential to the “general welfare.” Government, even though not explicitly stated in the Constitution, has the responsibility to ensure that all youth are afforded the opportunity of a common school education. Those who were involved in writing and establishing the state Constitutions spoke eloquently about the need for universal education in a common school setting.

Government support of the common school is especially critical in the United States, since we are a nation of immigrants. America, throughout its history, has received in the range of 100 million immigrants. The public common school system has and continues to be the one place where every student and family is welcome and is served on an equal basis. In that environment, students are together, learn together, and grow-up to be Americans together. The “dollars should follow the students” rhetoric has no basis in the Ohio Constitution, and it is just mere twaddle.