

Vouchers hurt Ohio, including the teachers (STRS)

There is a lot of angst among retired teachers regarding the lack of a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Some believe that the remedy is an increase in the employer's contribution, which is a matter that must be decided by the legislature.

Others believe the remedy is better management of the system.

With the advent of universal EdChoice vouchers and the voucher zealots' campaign to increase the demand for vouchers, COLA might be the least of worries for both retired and active public school teachers.

As state funds are increasingly diverted from the public education sector to the private education sector, the effect on STRS could be catastrophic. Both teachers and school district boards of education pay 14% of the salary amount to STRS.

On average, up to 2/3 of the typical school district budget goes to professional salaries. For each general revenue dollar that a school district spends, the equivalent of about twenty cents goes to STRS.

The state has shifted a billion dollars of public school funds per year to vouchers; the shortfall for STRS could be, in this scenario, in the range of \$200,000,000.

Teachers and retired leaders beware!