

State officials via allocating tax funds to education privatization ventures are reversing more than a century of policy and practice that empowered the education system to be more financially efficient and educationally effective.

The State's current education endeavors are becoming more ineffective and inefficient.

Prior to the 1851 constitutional provision requiring the state to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, educational programs and services were provided in a haphazard fashion. The 1851 constitutional provision set in motion a game plan to effectuate a viable efficient and effective system of public common schools. Six decades later, in 1912, a constitutional amendment was adopted by Ohioans requiring the state to organize, administer, and control the public school system supported by public funds. This amendment kickstarted a long campaign to reorganize the 3000 Ohio school districts, including 10,000 one-room schoolhouses into a coherent, effective and efficient framework of school districts. This efficacious endeavor took the biggest part of a century to execute, resulting in 612 school districts, 49 Career/Tech Centers and 51 Educational Service Centers.

In the late 1990's state officials were given the opportunity by the Ohio Supreme Court to perfect the common school system that had not yet achieved the standard of thorough and efficient. State officials blew that opportunity by adopting policies that redistributed tax dollars assigned to the public system to unregulated, privately-operated charter schools and a totally unregulated voucher program. More than 300 charter schools and a myriad of private schools are now authorized by state law to operate in part or in total by tax funds siphoned from the constitutionally-required common school system.

Now that state officials have, without constitutional authority, established a universal voucher system, the state officials who control state government have already begun funding private school facilities. If this nefarious public policy continues, within a few years, Ohio's education delivery system will mirror the pre-1900 system, even the pre-1851 system.

The emerging school privatization strategy will render sterile the constitutional provisions of Article VI, sections 2, 3 and 4.

Some politicians can't stand success. The public common school system has not been perfect through the years, but it was and still is successful. Beginning in 1990 some politicians decided to demolish the system rather than continue to improve it. Some politicians thought privatizing part of the system would spawn improvements. They were wrong then and are still wrong!