

Now that we know the holy grail of the voucher movement is the full privatization of public schools, what are we going to do about it?

Vouchers were sold as “scholarships’ for poor kids in high poverty public schools to attend private schools. Vouchers don’t cover the cost of tuition; hence poor kids will not be able to participate. Had the education of poor kids been the real motivation of the voucher originators, they would have lobbied for state policy that would have matched vouchers with tuition rates of various private schools. Instead, they incrementally changed the voucher eligibility requirement to allow all students, regardless of income or school district of attendance to receive a voucher. This subtle incremental eligibility shift accomplished the original goal of the voucher zealots—subsidizing the private school tuition for those who can afford tuition.

From the beginning, voucher apostles knew vouchers subsidize the doctrines of the religions that operate private schools, but they had no regard for the Ohio Constitution, which prohibits funding of religion

So, what will Ohioans do to reverse this wrong turn in state education funding policy? The make-up of the legislature now and the foreseeable future renders lobbying efforts somewhat futile in the short term. The public must resist the voucher movement en masse.

Meanwhile, the EdChoice voucher lawsuit is moving forward in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, along with an effort to win in the court of public opinion.