

**Selected champions—individuals and groups—who built up and continue to build up the Ohio public common school system, and selected antagonists—individuals and groups-- who have been tearing the system down.**

Some contractors build buildings, and some demolish buildings. Some citizens, including civic and political leaders, build public institutions; some tear them down.

The institution of the Ohio public common school system illustrates the point of building up and tearing down. The public institution of education being built up and then being torn down is so much more serious than building and tearing down physical structures. The public common school system is the alpha and omega of democracy in the United States.

Many extremely affluent folks and groups are publicly calling for the end of the institution of the public common school. Economist Milton Friedman started the demolition movement seven decades ago. Some presidents, governors and state legislatures have been aiding and abetting the demolition movement, particularly since Reagan's flawed, shoddy Nation at Risk report in 1983.

A roll call of some of the Ohio champions of the public common school system and a roll call of some of the distractors of the public common school system are listed below. Each list is a sampling.

**THE CHAMPIONS**

- Bathsheba Rouse, the first teacher in the Ohio territory (Northwest Territory), 1789, Belpre, Ohio.
- Ephraim Cutler, the sponsor of the legislation to appoint a Common School Committee in 1819
- Legislators who established the common school system in 1825
- Samuel Lewis, the first superintendent of common schools in 1837
- 1850/1851 Constitutional Convention Delegates who crafted the thorough and efficient system of common schools language in the Ohio Constitution (Article VI, section 2) and the Ohioans who supported the adoption of the 1851 Constitution in the statewide ballot.
- State Commissioners of Common Schools, 1853-1913
- 1912 Constitutional Convention Delegates who crafted Article VI, section 3 and Ohioans who supported the adoption of the amendment in a general election.
- Governor James Cox, who worked tirelessly in enable the 1912 amendment.
- Ohioans that supported the 1953 amendment to establish a State Board of Education separate from the Governor's office.
- The legislators who established the elected State Board of Education structure separate from the Governor's office.
- Public school leaders who challenged the school funding system in court in 1991.
- Judge Linton Lewis who ruled that the school funding system was unconstitutional, and that education is a fundamental right,
- Elected State Board of Education that refused to defend the school funding system.
- Ohio Supreme Court members who ruled Ohio's school funding system unconstitutional four times (1997-2022)
- Governor Bob Taft who activated the \$20 billion school building program
- Governor Ted Strickland who developed Ohio's evidence-based school funding model
- Legislators Bob Cupp and John Patterson who developed the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan.
- The Ohio General Assembly that enacted the Cupp/Patterson Fari School Funding Plan.

**THE DISTRACTORS**

- The General Assembly in 1965 that enacted the legislation requiring school districts to provide transportation for private school students.

- Governor George Voinovich, who lobbied intensely for charters, vouchers, and direct tax support of private schools.
- The General Assembly that legislated charter schools and vouchers at the behest of Governor Voinovich.
- Industrialist David Brennan who chaired Governor Voinovich's Parent Choice Committee which recommended vouchers. He started private schools to use vouchers but then built a charter school empire.
- U.S. Supreme Court that ruled in favor of the Cleveland Voucher case.
- William Lager, the owner of the ECOT online charter school enterprise that overcharged the state by hundreds of millions.
- The for-profit charter school operators who amass huge profit on the backs of students.
- Governor John Kasich, who ditched Governor Strickland's school funding plan.
- Legislator Matt Huffman, whose mission is to expedite the privatization of the common school system. He continues to be a voucher zealot during the entire span of his excessive legislative career.
- Legislators who support the universal EdChoice voucher system and fail to fully fund the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan.