

Ohioans seem to be increasingly aware of how state officials are short changing school districts to fund vouchers.

The attached [Letter to the Editor](#) was printed in the January 16 Akron Beacon Journal (akron.com). The writer correctly states that the voucher scheme undermines the purpose of public education. The Ohio Constitution requires the state to fulfill the “purpose” by requiring the General Assembly to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools.

Vouchers Hurt Ohio!

Resident opposes possible education cuts

January 16, 2025

[Letter to the Editor](#)

I am writing in response to Ohio House Speaker [Matt] Huffman’s recent comments describing public school funding as “unsustainable.”

I strongly oppose any proposed cuts to public education in Ohio. As a parent, concerned citizen and advocate for our children’s future, I believe public education is the cornerstone of democracy and a critical investment in Ohio’s future.

Approximately 90% of Ohio’s students attend public schools [according to an Oct. 3, 2023 report from nonprofit organization Policy Matters Ohio]. These institutions are vital for providing quality education, preparing youth to become informed citizens and contributing members of society. Cutting public school funding would jeopardize educational quality and deepen inequities across communities.

It is alarming that Ohio has already diverted \$1 billion in taxpayer money to private schools through the EdChoice voucher program, which lacks the transparency and accountability required of public schools. This undermines the purpose of public education — to serve all children, regardless of their circumstances. Instead of expanding an uncapped voucher program, Ohio legislators should prioritize fully funding public schools, ensuring every child has access to quality education.

A strong public education system is also essential for a thriving economy. Well-educated individuals are better prepared to drive innovation, meet workforce demands and support local businesses. States with strong public schools attract workers and businesses alike, making them more competitive. By fully funding public education,

CC 3977 2.7.25 Friday

Ohio can strengthen its economy and build a brighter future for all.

Ohio lawmakers must stand against any cuts to public education funding. Rather than diverting public funds to private schools, the state budget should focus on supporting public schools and the students who rely on them. Investing in public education is an investment in Ohio's children and its economic future.

It is essential that public education remains a top priority for Ohio's leaders, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Stacie Novelli, Fairlawn