

The Berea Board of Education created a [chart](#) which shows that voucher usage in Berea schools has increased dramatically from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 but during the same period the percentage of the number used by low-income students has decreased exponentially. In 2022-2023, 66% of the vouchers went to low-income students; in 2024-2025, only 12% of the vouchers went to low-income students.

In the beginning of voucher mania, the bleeding hearts voucher zealots, as a means of promoting vouchers, appealed to the heartstrings of fellow citizens by saying that vouchers would give poor, deprived children the same opportunity to attend a private school as wealthy students. That was disingenuous from the starting gate. These wolves in sheep's clothing had their endgame in mind—transfer education funding assigned to the general population of students to the more affluent. What diabolic behavior!

School district officials throughout the state should do a similar analysis and inform the community of the results.

Berea City Schools joins 140-plus school districts suing state over vouchers

- Updated: Feb. 23, 2025, 4:36 p.m.
- |Published: Feb. 23, 2025, 4:21 p.m.
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This [chart](#) created by Berea Board of Education President Cori Farris shows the skyrocketing use of vouchers by non-low-income families in the district.

By

- [Beth Mlady, Special to cleveland.com](#)

BEREA, Ohio – The [Berea City Schools Board of Education](#) voted unanimously at its Feb. 18 regular business meeting to join the [“Vouchers Hurt Ohio” lawsuit](#) challenging the constitutionality of the state’s universal school voucher program.

The lawsuit now represents a consortium of more than 140 public school districts.

[BCSD Superintendent Tracy Wheeler](#) said the premise of the VHO lawsuit is that “the state taking state funds to pay for vouchers is unconstitutional.”

“The Constitution defines one source of education to fund, and that is clearly defined as the public schools,” Wheeler said. “This lawsuit is to basically say that what the state is doing in funding vouchers is against the law.”

Wheeler explained that for the 2024-25 school year, the state has spent approximately \$1.2 billion on vouchers going to private and parochial schools, “and there are no accountability measures, meaning no testing requirements and no financial requirements.”

State auditors review BCSD financial records annually.

“I’m not against school choice,” she emphasized. “But if there is going to be school choice, at a minimum put the same accountability on private and parochial schools.”

Board President Cori Farris presented charts with BCSD-specific voucher data. While use by low-income households remains fairly consistent, the number of non-low-income families using vouchers has skyrocketed, a fact she said illustrates “abuse” of the program.

“It’s not the spirit in which the expanded vouchers were meant,” Farris said. “They were meant to offer alternatives to lower performing districts and for lower income families.”

CC3992 2.25.25 Tuesday

Wheeler said “families of wealth” living in the district are taking advantage of the voucher program and stressed student enrollment in the Berea City Schools remains unchanged.

“Overall, with universal vouchers, students are not leaving the public schools to attend private schools,” she said.

“People are not leaving our school district to go take vouchers. People who were already in private or parochial schools are the ones now taking money from the state.”

“It’s just ridiculous the way the state is giving more money to kids to attend private schools than they are to fund public schools,” board member Ana Chapman added.

<https://www.cleveland.com/community/2025/02/berea-city-schools-joins-140-plus-school-districts-suing-state-over-vouchers.html>