

A highly consequential, in-depth research report by Susan Kaeser which shows the enrollment distribution among the traditional public schools and the alternative education venues, and which thus identify some policy concerns and implications for schooling in Ohio.

Susan Kaeser is the League of Women Voters of Ohio education specialist.

To introduce folks to her report Susan Kaeser writes:

Hi Public School Friends,

I spent the bitter cold part of this winter examining the full range of options available to families for educating their children. People have many choices. Because education is a local activity, I wanted to go beyond statewide data and look at the reality as more of a community issue. The ODEW website provides plenty of data on a county basis making it possible to think about what is possible in each county and the patterns of where each option is possible.

Because private school vouchers, charter school tuition, and public school funding are all in the same line item in the budget and compete for students and funds, I focused in hard on where they are located and what share of students in each county uses a public school. It illustrates so clearly that choice is an urban reality and not a rural experience. Public funds for charters and vouchers is being sent to 6 counties and holding hostage the public schools that dominate 75 counties. It's time to fund them.

Please find attached my [summary of findings](#) and plea for public schools and their deep roots in our communities, and the [bigger report](#). That report includes a map that displays in a visual way where kids depend on public schools. It has an overlay of the senate districts. It's easy to identify legislators who might want to know this information and would hopefully be interested in representing their constituents. The third document is a [list](#) of the statewide on-line charter schools that I reference in the report but failed to include in the body. I think this category of education should be the focus of restrained spending. What a huge number.

I hope you will find uses for this research and will add one more set of arguments to deploy in support of our remarkable system of public education.

Susie

Ms Kaeser combed through a mountain of ODEW data and organized it so that readers can readily draw conclusions about current state policy for K-12 education.

One observation is that private schools in Ohio and thus vouchers are concentrated in six counties. Combined, these counties host 400 private schools (non-charter non-public school is not in the count). 47 mostly rural counties have five or less private schools. Two counties have no private schools.

Some rural school district leaders wrongly assume that the absence of private schools in their area means that their district is not affected by vouchers. (Many rural districts are underfunded in both state and local funds.) In this context rural districts are helping to subsidize the tuition payments of parents in urban and suburban areas, most of whom can afford to pay private school tuition.

One might question that conclusion. But for the billion dollars in state funds going to largely affluent private school parents, the state could be fully funding the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding plan

[A Review of Public, Private and Charter Schools by County
Online Charter Schools with Statewide Enrollment--2023-24 School Year
Executive Summary](#)