

The recent bump in real estate taxes in Ohio and the fiscal balances of Ohio school districts are not related; therefore, school districts with fiscal balances should not be required to solve the Legislature's real estate property tax problem.

The Ohio General Assembly wants to solve the sky-high real estate tax increases by confiscating funds from school district treasuries. How dare state officials rob school districts of fiscal balances! School districts have to manage their fiscal resources to demonstrate a balance for five years in the future. This mandated task requires a whole lot of skillful financial prowess (and some good luck). Now the House just passed a budget bill that would steal school district funds when fiscal balances are above a specified percentage of the annual expenditures of the districts.

The 5-year forecast requirement was enacted during a period of time when many districts had to borrow funds from the state (or from commercial sources with state approval) to maintain operation. School district fiscal managers have been resourceful in accumulating sufficient balances in order to demonstrate to the state that their districts still can operate in the black 5 years in the future.

State officials should be applauding school district officials for superior fiscal management; instead, some state officials plan to punish them for their responsible stewardship.

Beyond the goal of some state officials wanting to solve the property tax hike issue on the backs of public school district students, what else is cooking in this legislature's brew? Is it not to bring the public school districts to the brink of bankruptcy in future years? For years some federal and state officials have trashed the public common school system as a tactic to expand school privatization mania. The tactic of stealing from the treasury of school districts and then accusing local district leadership of mismanagement of finances is the intended strategy.

The Speaker of the House is on record stating that his goal is the smooth transfer of public funds to private schools.

All boards of education in Ohio should pass a resolution to join the Coalition/Vouchers Hurt Ohio.