

Eric Resnick's LTE published June 5, 2025, in the Canton Repository: Support the Fair School Funding Plan.

Eric Resnick, former member of the Canton City Board of Education and member of the Steering Committee of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding, in his LTE reveals who moved the EdChoice voucher program from a design that provided a limited number of vouchers for poor kids in high poverty school districts, to a scheme that now essentially excludes poor kids, while subsidizing the tuition of kids whose parents had already been enrolling their kids in private schools.

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We don't have to guess what Ohio House Speaker Matt Huffman has planned for public education in Ohio. He told us.

In October 2017, then state Sen. Huffman was named Legislator of the Week by the American Legislative Exchange Council. Asked, "What project or law are you most proud of and why?" Huffman answered, "... my overarching goal of providing true school choice for every student in Ohio, including smooth transferability of funds..." Translation: Privatization of Ohio's education system, and shifting tax dollars to private schools.

Huffman's law firm represented Leo Academy, the defunct Lima voucher school that closed in 2021 over financial and legal problems. Not a single one of Leo's 39 students who took Ohio assessments during the 2020-21 school year earned proficient scores.

This is the guy now telling Ohioans that funding the Fair School Funding Plan is "unsustainable" but somehow, expanding privatization, especially vouchers, by the amount needed for full funding, coincidentally, somehow is.

The bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan took six years and lots of analysis by people who care about educating our children. As a school board member, I worked on it, as did our district treasurer.

The plan is based on the actual cost of educating children and takes into consideration each district's ability to raise property taxes. The goal is reduction of property taxes needed by each district.

Failing to fund the plan shifts the burden back to local property taxpayers at the risk of reducing the capacity of our public school districts to educate our children. It really is that simple.

Ohioans can demand that our senators stand up to Huffman by fully funding the plan in the budget, pony up, or watch our valued public school districts, which educate more than 90% of Ohio's children, go the way of Leo Academy.

Eric Resnick, Canton