

EdChoice vouchers hurting rural school districts, even though few private schools are located in rural school districts in Ohio.

A review of the annual reports of Ohio Commissioners of Common Schools from 1853-1912 indicate that rural schools were underfunded compared to other districts. Most of the Commissioners stated that concern to the legislature in the annual reports.

A case can be made that rural school districts are likewise underfunded from 1912 to the present day. The EdChoice voucher scheme exacerbates this state of affairs in rural areas, even though rural communities do not have a significant number of private schools. The state's universal voucher scheme is being fully funded, while the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan is shortchanged. Rural districts suffer severely when the school foundation program is underfunded.

A recent [report](#) by the National Rural Education Association ([NREA](#)) reveals how rural schools in Oklahoma, Arizona, Florida, West Virginia and Indiana are hurt by school voucher programs.