

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, ...

The common school system was established in recognition of the equality of mankind.

Horace Mann, the father of the American common school, believed that the education of all students in a common school would help equalize the conditions of the American social order.

Those who opted out of the common school could do so at their own expense. In other words, those who did not desire to be educated with their neighbors didn't have to attend the public system; they were allowed to opt out at their own expense; however, not at the expense of their neighbors.

The idea of securing a private education at the expense of neighbors is tantamount to government ordering a person to help neighbors to pay for upgrades on their properties.

Private education, even though it has a tendency to separate people into classes, should be permitted by government, but not via taxation. Vouchers require some folks, via taxation, to pay for the choice of others.

The common school system recognizes the equality of mankind by leveling the playing field. Some youth will not take advantage of the opportunity inherent in the common school system, but at least government policy provides the opportunity.