

August 21 Columbus Dispatch Headline: CCS board OK's \$50M in cuts

The statehouse operatives (many, if not most of whom serve the party and not their constituents) passed a state budget in June 2025 that penalized the public common school system and disproportionately ramped up funding for the private schools and the unregulated charter schools. They failed to fully fund the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding formula; instead, they poured vast increases into the private school and privately-operated charter schools. Hence, newspaper headlines of boards of education cutting funding for public school districts will pop up throughout the state.

The money the state authorized for vouchers would have fully funded the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding plan. The Ohio Constitution requires the state to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools (Article VI, section 2). In 1997 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the school funding system unconstitutional. Cupp/Patterson (if fully funded) could have provided the state resources required for a constitutional system.

Recently a Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge ruled the EdChoice voucher system unconstitutional.

Ohioans need to ponder and respond to this scenario. The state failed to fund a constitutional system of public common schools; instead, state officials fully funded an unconstitutional voucher system, which has been ruled unconstitutional.

Where is the outrage?