

The Constitutions of all 50 states included one or more provisions that require public schools. No state constitution requires funding of private schools. Ohio's constitutional provision for public education via school districts provides a model for many other states.

State officials in Ohio made a wrong turn regarding the common school system required by the Ohio Constitution in July 1965 when Governor James A. Rhodes signed the so-called Fair Bus Bill. That bill required school districts to transport private school students. From that point on, Ohio taxpayers have been saddled with paying Auxiliary Services, Nonpublic Administrative Cost Reimbursement and a variety of school voucher types. The taxpayer cost of funding private school student transportation could be as high as \$75 million annually.

In fiscal year 2025, Ohio taxpayers were billed \$166,853,000 for Auxiliary Services; \$75,381,000 for Nonpublic Administrative Cost Reimbursement; and in the range of \$1,000,000,000 for vouchers. The total taxpayer bill for private schools in fiscal year 2025 was about \$1,250,000,000.

Other states are subsidizing private education as well, but Ohio is either the leader of the pack or close to it.

Ohio, as well as most of the states, are in violation of their constitutions regarding tax funding of private education.