

Compulsory education in Ohio is being phased out.

In the 19th century, it took state officials in Ohio about a half century to establish meaningful compulsory school attendance. Beginning in the last quarter of the 20th century, the concept of compulsory school attendance started to erode. In the 1970's non-chartered private schools were authorized in Ohio which allowed religious groups that opposed state schooling regulations to establish totally unregulated schools. These schools are totally unregulated. At about that same time homeschooling was state-authorized. (Although some homeschooling environments are excellent, others are dismal. Regulations are minimal and the state does not monitor homeschooling.) During my career in education, I have been personally aware of homeschool situations wherein "homeschooling" is engaged as a ploy to essentially opt children out of education; hence "homeschooling" being engaged to circumvent compulsory school attendance.

The defunct ECOT online charter school that stole hundreds of millions of dollars from taxpayers by reporting for payment purpose thousands of students not served is an example of how the state fails to monitor student enrollment in charter schools. When charter schools close, what state agency checks to determine if all former charter school students enroll in another school? By the way, in the range of 300 charter schools have closed in Ohio since 2000.

A very recent development is the microschool. In Ohio: Microschools exist but are not state regulated or monitored by the state. This brand of schooling just exists with no accountability.

In the current environment of Ohio schooling, there are likely thousands of Ohio children that are not engaged in any education programs.

Compulsory education is fading. Many lawmakers and other state officials seem oblivious to this matter. In the 19th century, state officials in Ohio enacted laws to guarantee that all children would be educated appropriately. Since about 1975, state officials in Ohio have been phasing out compulsory school attendance with misguided "education reform" measures.