

**Jeanne Melvin's January 4 LTE in the Columbus Dispatch expresses concern regarding the legislature's mistreatment of public education.**

Jeanne's LTE adds to our overall effort to win in the court of public opinion.

### **Secure public education**

Thanks to Dispatch education reporter Cole Behrens for sharing 2025's biggest K-12 headlines for central Ohio, but what about some of the many K-12 policies that affected greater Ohio in 2025?

There's been an ongoing legislative push to infuse religious ideology into our public schools.

Ohio lawmakers mandated that public school districts teach students the so-called success sequence to "avoid poverty."

Our legislators expanded the unconstitutional universal school voucher program, which benefits private and parochial schools while draining funds from districts that serve ALL students.

Eliminating the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan should concern us all, because the state slashed the expected public education spending by nearly \$3 billion over the next two years.

Some encouraging news came mid-year when Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jaiza N. Page ruled the EdChoice program unconstitutional.

The Ohio Constitution (Article VI, sections 2 and 3) requires the state to secure a thorough and efficient system of public common schools. State leaders have no right under the Ohio constitution to fund alternative educational programs that diminish moral and financial support from the common school system.

In this New Year, may Ohio's elected leaders focus on fulfilling their oaths to uphold the Ohio Constitution by securing a comprehensive system of public education that is democratically governed, publicly funded, universally accessible and accountable to the public.

If not, may Ohio voters have the resolve to elect only pro-public education candidates in 2026.