

**Beginning with the Northwest Land Ordinance of 1785, the foundation governing documents in Ohio have directed state government to restrict school tax funds to only public school entities. Part I of a series.**

The 1785 Land Ordinance

Public officials in Ohio have, particularly in recent times, not always been diligent about following the Constitution of Ohio or given attention to the efficacy of the Northwest Ordinance.

The 1785 Land Ordinance set aside the 16<sup>th</sup> section of each township for the support of schools. Each township was required to be 36 square miles and each divided into 36 sections measuring 1 mile square. The 16<sup>th</sup> section was set aside for the support of schools; hence in each township, a plot of 3600 acres was set aside for school purposes. The schools in the geographic area of the township would thus be recipients of proceeds derived from the 3600 acres. The schools intended would be those located in geographic boundaries in each township.

There is no indication that the proceeds from section 16 could be used for private school ventures or any other purpose. A public venture was envisioned.