

**Notwithstanding the rhetoric of the school privatization lobby, education in Ohio and across the nation is a government function not to be delegated to the private school sector.**

In Ohio, in particular, public education is a government function. The Ohio Constitution is absolutely clear that the funding, governance and operation of public education is a government function that cannot be delegated to private individuals, schools, or other private entities. Private citizens at their own expense can buy education for their school-age children.

Article VI, sections 2 and 3 are straightforward statements assigning government the responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools and to provide by law for the organization, administration and control of the public school system of the state supported by public funds.

Libertarian Economist Milton Friedman, in the 1950's, began pushing his idea that the only role of government in education is to provide vouchers for use in private schools. He was wrong—dead wrong! By the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, he was saying that parents should stand the cost of educating their own children. Again, he was dead wrong.

The Ohio Constitution absolutely assigns the responsibility (funding and governance of public education) to the Ohio General Assembly and the delivery of that public education to the local elected boards of education. State officials have no constitutional authority to delegate the education responsibility to the private sector.

Public education is integral i.e. basic, essential, and fundamental to the form of government adopted by our nation's founders. The private sector has an important and essential role in our society; however, that role is not governance. It is also not public education that is required for self-government.

The functions of the three branches of government are stated in the Ohio Constitution and cannot be delegated to the private sector. Likewise, the provisions for funding and governance of the public common school system are spelled out in the Constitution and thus cannot be delegated to the private sector.