

## **The dumbing down of Ohio education**

One of the talking points of voucher enthusiasts is that poor kids in high poverty school districts should have the opportunity to attend a private school. Implicit in that talking point is that private schools are better; however, there is no conclusive evidence that voucher students in private schools perform any better than their peers in the public school system.

Private schools, compared to public schools, are grossly unregulated and unaccountable to the public; hence the quality of education in the private sector is largely concealed from the public. In a universal voucher eligibility environment, wherein private schools are scarcely regulated, non-transparent and unaccountable to the public, there is no current provision for quality control by the state. Therefore, the state is handing out voucher funds without regard to the quality of education.

In a universal voucher eligibility environment, the probability of inferior quality private education being provided is extremely high. Lack of meaningful standards, financial auditing and accountability, in concert with free funds from the state, will guarantee a wide variation in quality of education. The voucher amount is unaffected by the curriculum, programs and services provided by various private schools. Universal vouchers will greatly expand the number of low performing private schools. The universal EdChoice voucher scheme will greatly increase the number of untested, unproven private schools. These private schools will subject students to inferior educational services, programs and curricular offerings. The dumbing down has begun.

Help stop the hurt. Support the Coalition/Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit.