

Three decades ago, state officials in Ohio initiated charter schools and voucher schemes that were sold to the public as pilot projects to determine if Ohio education could be improved by these alternatives. Both projects failed.

Charters were supposed to be teacher-led projects under the jurisdiction of school district boards of education. This out-of-control, tax sucking behemoth guzzles well over \$1 billion annually from Ohio taxpayers for mostly educational programming that is far inferior to school district educational programming. The graft and corruption in this fraud-ridden project (The ECOT heist of hundreds of millions of tax funds is just one example of the fraud in this industry) is being exposed somewhat regularly.

Charters have been an abject failure in terms of the original stated purpose of chartering—to provide models to improve educational achievement in public school districts. In spite of this total failure, state officials blindly expand funding for this failed industry.

The voucher experiment foisted on the Cleveland school district in the mid-1990's as a pilot failed to improve educational opportunities for students but did fill some empty seats in the private school industry. With no, not one, shred of evidence of favorable results the project has been expanded to universal eligibility. The voucher scheme has saved a lot of private schools from closure and/or bankruptcy but has not expanded educational opportunities or improved education in Ohio. Additionally, vouchers have hidden billions upon billions of dollars from public scrutiny.

Over 300 school districts have been supporting the Coalition/Vouchers Hurt Ohio EdChoice voucher litigation. We are waiting for the other districts to get on board.