

Little Red Schoolhouse, the symbol of the common school commitment of the Ohio Constitution framers to Ohio's children since 1851

During the Constitutional Convention of 1850/1851 the delegates to the convention drafted a solemn promise that a common school system would be available to all school children henceforth. In 1851 Ohioans embraced that pledge when they supported passage of the new Constitution. During the following half century, at least 10,000 Little Red Schoolhouses were built to accommodate the constitutional guarantee of the availability of education within the reach of all students. In the more highly populated areas, the schoolhouses were of different design and construction. However, the Little Red Schoolhouse was the symbol of Ohioans' commitment to the proposition that all children would have the opportunity to attend school without regard to race, religion, family income, etc. Those who chose not to use the public school had the option to arrange schooling at their own expense.

The common school symbolized by the Little Red Schoolhouse has been effective in educating America's children. It has enabled democracy and empowered upward mobility. The common school centered in each community across Ohio and the nation has fostered harmony and the common good, as children are educated side by side on common ground.

It is somewhat of a mystery as to why billionaire elitists are using their resources to destroy the common system by promoting school vouchers and other privatization schemes. Is it to dumb-down education to form a permanent poverty class of people? Is it to destroy a government of the people, by the people and for the people? Is it that they hate everyone except their own billionaire buddies? Is it an attempt to control the masses? Do they think ordinary folks are losers?

All citizens, including those who are now hooked on school vouchers, should come together to stop the erosion of the public common school system. Once the privatizers destroy the public system, they will end funding for vouchers and require parents to fund education for their own children, which seems to be the goal of the Libertarian economist, Milton Friedman, who started the voucher campaign in the 1950's.