

History of school funding in Ohio: Some education issues addressed in the 1873/1874 Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention of 1850/1851 a “thorough and efficient” system of common schools (Article VI, section 2). This article also includes a prohibition stating that no sect, religious or secular, would ever have control over any part of the school funds of the state.

During the 1873/1874 Constitutional Convention, the issue of state funding for private school students was discussed. At least one delegate proposed to change Article VI, section 2 of the Constitution to allow tax funds to flow to religious private schools. That proposal was soundly rejected.

Although all of the proposed revisions to the 1850/1851 Constitution were rejected at the polls, it is important to note there was little to no support among the convention delegates for tax funding of private religious schools. The entire 1851 Constitution remained intact.

The next post will review education measures considered in the 1912 Constitutional Convention.