

The EdChoice voucher gold shine of former times has turned into fool's gold.

Remember when the Cleveland Voucher legislation was introduced? It was promoted as a liberator of poor kids "trapped" in a high poverty school district. The hype of this project resonated well with many Ohioans who were sympathetic to the idea of giving poor kids an opportunity for a private education. (Recent research demonstrates that poor kids transferred to private schools with vouchers do less well academically than their peers in the district school.)

A very high percentage of the students on EdChoice vouchers today never attended a public school. When Ohioans become aware of the facts about EdChoice vouchers they usually become outraged. The current EdChoice voucher scheme is welfare for the rich at the expense of the poor.

The EdChoice voucher project in Ohio is becoming very unpopular. Folks are beginning to put the puzzle together.

Voucher backers initially gained a modicum of public support for this scheme by using poor children as a pawn for their sinister plot to get the camel's nose in the tent.

In the early 1990s Governor George Voinovich's Parent Choice Commission recommended that every school district offer a voucher to every student; hence the intent of the Cleveland Scholarship program from the beginning was to ultimately establish a universal voucher program.

The high property tax problem today, in part or in full, is caused by the state's lack of adequate state tax support for school districts and other political subdivisions. The state's rerouting of school funding to vouchers causes school districts to rely more heavily on property tax. Hence, the \$1.5 billion voucher expenditure in the current state budget results in school districts being shortchanged in state funding and needing more property tax revenue.

Support for EdChoice vouchers is a losing political proposition. Ohio voters are becoming wise to the EdChoice voucher mischief.