

The state has created a distinct private school industry contrary to the Ohio Constitution.

Voucher supporters may take issue with the title of this post. They may argue that vouchers are scholarships, but in Ohio that is not true.

Scholarships are typically for a few selected applicants. Not every student receives a scholarship; however, in Ohio private schools are eligible to receive EdChoice vouchers on behalf of students enrolled. Notwithstanding, state-funded vouchers flow directly to Ohio private schools. Many, possibly most, private schools require parents of children attending a particular private school to apply for vouchers. This gives private school operators the opportunity to increase tuition.

Additionally, private schools in Ohio are eligible for direct tax funds for auxiliary services and nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement to the tune of nearly \$250 million in fiscal year 2026. School districts bear the cost of transporting private school students, such costs being tens of millions each year. Taxpayer funded vouchers this school year are in the range of a billion dollars.

Suggesting that tax funds accumulating to about \$1.3 billion in school year 2026 being a mere scholarship program is poppycock. Ohio taxpayers are funding a private school system, contrary to the Ohio Constitution.

The last state capital improvements bill provided funding for 8 private school building projects. No scholarship here—just grants funded by Ohio taxpayers.

Over the past 50 years, Ohio politicians have established a private school system funded in large part with tax funds—all contrary to the plain language of the Ohio Constitution.

It should be no surprise that the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas ruled on June 24, 2025, that the EdChoice voucher scheme is unconstitutional.