

**State elected officials in Ohio, consistent with the Constitution of Ohio and Ohio law, resisted appropriating public funds for private schools until 1965: Part 4**

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1850/1851 got it right with regard to education. They established the fundamental right of all school children to a thorough and efficient system of common schools. The common school system was established in 1824 but without quality standards. Delegates to the convention were appalled by the poor quality of the system and thus established the standard of thorough and efficient. Additionally, they specifically disallowed private school funding from public resources. Ohioans adopted the new Constitution in 1851.

When the new requirement for education was implemented by legislation in 1853, the legislature also added a provision for an elected state Commissioner of Common Schools to help implement the new education law. It appears that the legislature was serious about assuming the responsibility for a thorough and efficient system of common schools, while having no responsibility for private schooling.

Part 5 will discuss an attempt to remove the prohibition of private school funding.