

**Some first-generation talking points voucher zealots want the public to forget.**

Once upon a time the voucher promoters pontificated a set of talking points that they wish the public would now forget.

Vouchers are scholarships, they said. But EdChoice vouchers are actually tuition payments to private schools.

Their deceptive spiel served their ultimate purpose well. Their purpose from the beginning was to divert public school tax money to the establishment of a tax-supported private school system. The voucher lobby said vouchers had the purpose of allowing poor kids from “failing school districts” an opportunity for private school education.

At this juncture in the voucher industry a second system of education in Ohio—a mostly religious system of private schools—supported by public tax dollars has been established. .

Private school voucher supporters deny that a new school system has emerged. Private schools that refuse any and all tax funds would not be a part of the new emerging state-instituted private system. Those private school operators who argue that they are not a part of the state private school system should immediately refuse vouchers, auxiliary services funding, nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement and public-funded student transportation.

Voucher proponents argue that vouchers are scholarships and not vouchers; they are tuition payments. Some private schools receive 80-100% of their funds from the EdChoice voucher program. How then can vouchers be considered scholarships? Vouchers are vouchers, not scholarships.

Vouchers give poor kids “trapped” in “failing school districts” an opportunity for private school education; they said. This rhetoric is no longer mentioned in EdChoice voucher advocate circles. The most recent batch of EdChoice vouchers went to private schools whose patrons were already paying tuition privately.

The “right to choice” rhetoric is the current justification for vouchers. No mention of giving poor kids an opportunity for private schooling.