

The Coalition's VOUCHERS HURT OHIO mantra rings true.

The EdChoice voucher scheme in Ohio is a growing blight, a fiscal scourge on school districts, and a curse on students and communities. This voucher scheme is unsustainable. It is past time that public school advocates call it what it is; --an existential threat to the constitutionally-required common school system.

Those who control the Ohio legislature, during the state budget process, said the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan was unsustainable, i.e. it costs more money than the state can afford. Concurrently, the lawmakers funded the EdChoice voucher scheme which sucks billions from the state budget line-item traditionally set aside for funding school districts; hence students in school districts are hurting.

VOUCHERS HURT STUDENTS.

Since the state underfunds the constitutionally-required common school system, school district boards of education must then ask property taxpayers to pass more local levies which, in turn, exacerbates the property tax crisis in Ohio. School boards have to operate on a balanced budget and have no choice but to seek additional property tax. **VOUCHERS HURT TAXPAYERS.** The alternative is to deny students educational opportunities, which is contrary to the constitutional provision which requires the General Assembly to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools.

Three decades ago, the Ohio Supreme Court ordered the state to reduce reliance on property tax in the school funding formula and fix the formula in order to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools. At the same time the Ohio Supreme Court ordered the state to fix school funding, state level politicians initiated school choice programs contrary to the Ohio Constitution. The EdChoice voucher program is costing billions while the state continues to operate an unconstitutional state-required common school system. **VOUCHERS HURT SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES.**

The conclusion of the matter is that the EdChoice voucher scheme is hurting students, property taxpayers, particularly senior citizens, and school districts as community centers. **VOUCHERS HURT OHIO.** State officials must be held accountable for their malfeasance. They take an oath of office to uphold the Ohio Constitution They have failed to do so. Article VI, section 2 is clear: They must secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools and not appropriate one dime to private religious schools. **VOUCHERS HURT OHIO.**