

An outspoken, prominent Ohio Senator in a recent Facebook post responded negatively to a proposal to hold private schools accountable.

Here is the blather he used to introduce his rant:

Before launching a "Voucher Accountability Project," perhaps we should start by holding accountable the public school system that educates the vast majority of Ohio students and receives the overwhelming majority of education funding.

At the outset this same legislator, a few years ago, stated that public education is "socialism" and that education should be privatized. This fellow, in the past, has chaired the House Education Committee and now chairs the Senate Education Committee. He should have learned that public schools are held accountable to the nth degree; but he says that the public school system should be held accountable.

Public school district finances are audited by the state. Public schools issue report cards. Public schools are subject to public records requests. Public schools are operated by elected school board members who are held accountable by school patrons.

Public schools are subjected to thousands of other mandates not applicable to private schools; yet, this fine Senator says, "start by holding accountable the public system." Does this mean that he would agree to a state policy that would hold private schools accountable in the same way public schools are?

This Senator is a leader in the Ohio Senate. No wonder this state has operated an unconstitutional system of common schools for 3 decades, scrapped the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan, and driven the state school system to the brink of financial collapse.

Ohio public school students depend on the Ohio legislature for the kind of educational programming that prepares them for citizenship and a successful life. The legislative leadership is failing Ohio public school students.