

Jeanne Melvin, retired teacher, President of Public Education Partners (PEP) and member of the Steering Committee of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding, in a July 7 LTE to the Columbus Dispatch, adds to the certainty that state officials in Ohio are failing the public school students of Ohio.

Three decades after the 1997 Ohio Supreme Court decision that Ohio's elementary and secondary schools are neither thorough nor efficient, the system is still failing public school students. How long will Ohio citizens tolerate state officials who serve themselves but not the Ohio Constitution and Ohio citizens?

Ohio's public schools are paying for lawmakers' mistakes | Letters

Letters to the Editor

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[Ohio's ongoing disinvestment in all schools hurting kids](#) effectively exposes how Ohio legislators' disinvestment in public education has forced school districts to do more with less; as state support has declined, local taxpayers have been forced to make up the difference.

Coincidentally, a recent report card by the Network for Public Education, "[Public School in America: Measuring Each State's Commitment to Democratically Governed Schools](#)," gave Ohio an "F" for how its legislative majority treats public school districts and the families they serve. States were scored using four standards:

- Privatization: Voucher and charter expansion
- Protections for homeschooled students
- Sufficient and equitable public-school funding
- Conditions for teaching and learning

NPE's analysis found a negative relationship between the expansion of privatization and the reduction of public-school support- privatization and disinvestment go hand in hand!

According to Carol Burris, the Executive Director of [Network for Public Education - NPE](#), Ohio lost more points on school privatization on the NPE report card than any other state. Our charter and voucher policies are among the most far-reaching and least accountable in the nation.

As [the recent column stated](#), state tax reductions have created an estimated \$18.6 billion revenue gap since 2005, limiting the resources available to fund public education.

[Burris went on to say](#) that if Ohio legislators continue to follow their destructive education agenda, citizens can count on further erosion of public-school funding, further decline in the rankings, and fewer educational options as the neighborhood public-school choice disappears.

In November, we can make changes in [Ohio's state leadership](#).

Please vote for candidates who will work to stop the flow of public tax dollars toward private school alternatives and will help ensure that public school districts are equitably and adequately funded and resourced.

Ohio's kids are counting on us!

Jeanne Melvin, Columbus