

July 10 Cuyahoga Falls City Schools Facebook post, Finance Friday: The voucher accountability divide.

Cuyahoga Falls school personnel published an important set of apprehensions regarding the lack of accountability of private schools that take public tax dollars via vouchers. (Of course, private schools receive other tax money via auxiliary services, nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement and student transportation.)

The state appropriation for auxiliary services and nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement combined for FY26 is \$248,117,573. Conservative estimates of the public cost of transporting private and charter school students are in the range of \$65-70 million annually.

Most of the private school population is enrolled in private religious schools; hence Ohio taxpayers are subsidizing religion to the tune of \$1 billion plus dollars annually.

Why do state officials in Ohio ignore Article I, section 7 and Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution? As one legislature leader publicly stated, "because we can."

A spokesperson for School Choice Ohio (school choice at taxpayers' expense) glibly states in their June 1, 2026, publication, Help me understand—apples, oranges, and accountability in Ohio Private schools: "...because when it comes to Ohio school choice, accountability is not absent. It already exists."

If public school districts were held only to the standards imposed on private schools, would school choicers applaud? I would certainly not applaud!

Cuyahoga Falls City Schools

July 10 at 7:00 AM ·

 Finance Friday: The Voucher Accountability Divide

As state funding for private school vouchers approaches an allocated 2.5 billion dollars in the upcoming biennial budget, a critical question surfaces: How are these public tax dollars monitored? Today, we are looking at the stark regulatory differences between your local public schools and private institutions receiving voucher funds.

Public school districts operate under strict standards of transparency and community oversight mandated by Ohio law. Private schools accessing public voucher funds operate under a completely different set of rules.

Here is a look at the current policy landscape in Ohio:

Financial Oversight: Public schools are required by law to undergo annual financial audits by the Ohio State Auditor. Private voucher-accepting schools face no mandatory annual state fiscal audits.

Academic Transparency: Public schools publish standardized annual state report cards. Private voucher schools are completely exempt from these state performance report cards.

District Governance: Public schools are run by an elected, locally accountable Board of Education bound by State Open Meetings and Sunshine laws, with full public records access. Private voucher schools are run by private boards with closed meetings and no public records requirements.

Admissions: Public schools have an open enrollment mandate and must accept all local students. Private schools use selective admissions and retain the right to reject any student profile or specialized need.

Staff Certification: Public schools require active state certifications for all instructional staff. State teaching certifications are not uniformly mandated for instructors at private voucher academies.

To address this regulatory gap, a bipartisan bill known as SB 443 (The "Take the Dough, We Gotta Know Act") was introduced by Senators Kent Smith (D) and Bill Blessing (R). If passed, it would require private schools accepting voucher dollars to submit to annual state audits, publish report cards, track weekly attendance, and run mandatory background checks on all employees.

For a deeper dive into this topic, please visit our Finance Friday page on our district website. 🙌

<https://www.cfalls.org/FinanceFridays.aspx>

👁️👁️ NEXT WEEK: We will wrap up our look into school vouchers by bringing the data straight home to Cuyahoga Falls, analyzing our direct per-pupil funding gap and the hidden transportation mandates carried by our local taxpayers.

[#FinanceFriday](#) [#BlackTigerPride](#) [#FacilitatingOurFinancialFuture](#)

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