

The fiscal year 2026 and 2027 state budget for schools is specifically designed to start the process of privatizing the urban school districts.

Possibly some legislators were snookered by legislative leaders into voting for a school funding arrangement that is racist, antipublic education and laced with evil intent.

The state had the tax resources to have fully funded the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan during the most recent state budgeting process. Instead, the legislature ditched the Cupp/Patterson plan by diverting public school district funds to school choice schemes, particularly the EdChoice voucher scam that showered tax money on folks who are well-invested in the private school sector.

So, what does the state budget look like at the school district level? Urban school districts are huge losers via the legislature forsaking the Cupp/Patterson plan. Rural districts are also big losers in the state's budget.

The adopted state budget provides \$500 million less in this biennium for the urban city (Big 8) than the Cupp/Patterson plan would have. This was by the design of legislative leaders. Possibly the Governor's office folks didn't understand the extent of the damage the state budget would heap on urban districts.

But why the attack on the urban districts? Quite simply, some state officials want to privatize the urban school districts! (It is happening in other states.)

Urban centers are easy tax targets for discrimination because many urban folks are often not as politically engaged as suburban folks. Additionally, the current legislature practice of racial discrimination is at play here. The bottom line is that the privatizers want to put school districts out of business and the urbans are their first target.

Rural districts are the next easy prey for school privatizers. Some politicians who have no clue about the public common school system are suggesting that massive consolidation be initiated in rural communities. They have no clue as to the fiscal and educational consequences of massive school consolidation in rural areas.

In the past, one of the drivers of school district consolidation has been the necessity of a low-wealth school district joining another district due to financial insolvency.

Reorganization of school districts causes major disruption which is what fuels the rhetoric of the need for privatization. Many state officials attempt to change the underfunding of school districts narrative by placing blame on local communities.

It is past time that state officials start serving the people.