

Charter school operators in Ohio are likely pleased that public scrutiny is more focused on the EdChoice voucher scheme than the charter school privatization industry.

The charter school industry and private school voucher systems are both publicly funded private ventures. Charters are more publicly regulated and accountable to the public than private schools but have many traits of private ventures.

Private schools use public tax dollars without any transparency or accountability to the public. Although charters are audited by the state and are subject to a few state regulations, they are not held to the same standard as traditional public schools.

Charters have privately selected boards of education that are not accountable to the public. In the for-profit charter sector, charter boards are generally accountable to the management companies. If ECOT had been managed by an elected board of education, the public would not have been scammed to the tune of hundreds of millions. (After nearly 8 years of litigation, the state has not collected a dime of the hundreds of millions the ECOT Man stole from Ohio taxpayers.)

Most charter schools are sponsored by non-profit authorizers/sponsors that are not even subject to public records requests. Submit a public records request to a non-profit charter sponsor and you will get a response saying they are not subject to such requests.

What do sponsors/authorizers do for the public tax money received? The public is in the dark.

The charter school folks who are in this industry to actually try to provide high-quality education should be asking the state officials to regulate the charter industry. The for-profit, money-grubbing charter operators should be regulated out-of-business.