The meaning of Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution: "The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State; but, no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this State." Part 3

After the office of Superintendent of Common Schools was eliminated, the legislature transferred state responsibilities for education to the Secretary of State. Of course, the Secretary of State had other responsibilities, thus education was not a primary focus.

Local educators, board members, and community members moved forward with the advancement of education without any substantial state level guidance, leadership or support. The legislature did, however, set forth some policies that emerged from local education advocates. For example, the Akron Plan of 1847 was adopted by the legislature for cities to implement. The Akron Plan provided for a city-wide school district. Some cities had more than one school district within city boundaries.

The schools of the state prior to the 1850s were operated mostly without state assistance, guidance, and funding. State funds that were available found their way into some private schools.

The delegates to the 1850/1851 Constitutional Convention expressed consternation for the state's lack of support for a system of education in Ohio. They thus crafted language that they felt would force the General Assembly to accommodate the education needs of students.

Part 4 will begin an examination of the words used in Article VI, section 2.