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 7

Common Schools. Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution requires a common school system. Common schools mean publicly funded schools that are free and accessible to all children; hence all children in Ohio are entitled to attend high-quality public schools. Essentially all children have a fundamental right to a high-quality education, via the public common schools. This is a right conferred by the Ohio Constitution. The Ohio Supreme Court confirmed that right on March 24, 1997, in the DeRolph school funding case.

For 30 years the legislature has ignored the 1997 DeRolph court decision (this is a constitutional crisis) and established a second and third system of uncommon schools—voucher schools and charter schools.

Ohio has established a publicly funded, privately-operated system of charter schools. These charter schools are typically operated privately and are not held to the same standards as public schools.

Most private schools that accept vouchers are receiving a major portion of their private school budgets from taxpayers; hence Ohio funds a private school system that is largely unregulated and not accountable to the public. Charters and privates operate with no accountability to the taxpaying public. These schools are separate systems and thus not a part of the constitutionally-required common school system.

Part 8 considers the second clause of Article VI, section 2, which forbids private religious school funding.