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 9

The State of Ohio held a Constitutional Convention in 1873/1874, two decades after the 1850/1851 Constitutional Convention. The revised Constitution recommended by the delegates to the 1873/1874 Convention was rejected by the voters.

Noteworthy is that during the 1873/1874 Convention deliberations, a Delegate proposed the removal of the second clause of the common school education provision (Article VI, section 2) which forbids public funding of private religious schools. The proposal was soundly rejected and thus was not included in the draft of the Constitution that was submitted to the citizens for statewide vote.

During the 1912 Constitutional Convention, the delegates presented and voters passed two new public education amendments. (Article VI, section 3 and Article VI, section 4.)

Article VI, section 3 reads: "Provision shall be made by law for the organization, administration and control of the public school system of the state supported by public funds: provided, that each school district embraced wholly or in part within any city shall have the power by referendum vote to determine for itself the number of members and the organization of the district board of education, and provision shall be made by law for the exercise of this power by such school districts."

Article VI, section 4 provided for a Superintendent of Public Instruction which replaced the legislated State Commissioner of Common Schools.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction position was attached to the Governor's office until 1956 when the State Board of Education was established pursuant to the 1953 constitutional amendment specifying the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Recent legislation has, in violation of the intent and wording of the 1953 amendment, transferred the primary duties of the State Board of Education back to the Governor's office which is where those duties were before the 1953 amendment.

In this series of posts, it has been shown that Article VI, section 2, in the context of education amendments that have been added, has remained intact. The state, since 1851, has had the responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools and is forbidden to fund religious education.