

Legislative Report February 2023

Ohio Department of Education investigates Nazi homeschool group, decides there's nothing they can do.: Yes, you [read that right](#). The [Ohio Nazis were exposed](#) through an investigation by the media outlet Vice.

Ohio Republican seek to expand vouchers to everyone and their uncle.: Well, maybe that's an exaggeration, [but not by much](#). A new "Backpack Bill" has arrived in the form of [Senate Bill 11](#), the so-called Parent Educational Freedom Act.

Included in the bill is a \$2000 tax credit for parents who homeschool their children. Does this mean [Ohio is potentially entering the business of subsidizing Nazi education](#)? (See above) And I was upset at the prospect of my tax dollars funding religious education.

Based on Ohio's Constitution, the entire EdChoice Voucher system and a potential expansion would seem to be illegal.

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.

Ohio Constitution Article VI, Section 2.

Gutting ODE & the State Board: The [plan to seize control](#) of the state's education system from voters, and hand it to Ohio's Governor and a cabinet level appointee has returned in [Senate Bill 1](#). Look for it as a standalone bill or written into the next budget bill.

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Committee assignments were doled out by the House Speaker, and while Elyria's Rep Gayle Manning is no longer the Chair of the [Education Committee](#), she is still a member. Committee Chair, Republican Representative Adam Bird is a former teacher, building administrator, and Superintendent. His Vice Chair is none other than Republican Rep Sarah Fowler Arthur who, due to her background as a homeschooler, has hardly set foot in an actual school, and is most recently famous for her Divisive Concepts Bill that she defended by arguing that educators needed to teach ["both sides of the Holocaust."](#)

Ohio Senate Education Committee: The [Senate Education Committee](#) is still led by Senator Andy Brenner, champion of Senate Bill 1. His Vice Chair is Ashtabula Republican Senator Sandra O'Brien, an advocate of voucher expansion.

As would seem obvious, [the leaders of these committees play an outsized role in directing education policy in the General Assembly.](#)

Senate Bill 14 [allows unlicensed veterans to be hired as educators](#) by local schools, as long as they attained a 2.5 GPA in any college coursework (no Bachelor's degree is required) and were honorably discharged.

Senate Bill 17 incorporates specific "free market capitalism" terms into law in order to dictate that the State Board of Education adopt them into financial literacy standards for students in grades 9-12.

Senate Bill 30 [would permit children under 16 to work after 7pm](#) during the school year. Should this pass, Ohio Republicans will prove that their concerns about Ohio's education system run a distant second to the need for cheap child labor.

To keep up on Ohio's education related legislation in order to fuel your dreams & nightmares go [here](#).