

EEA Legislative Report March 2024

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.

Explain to me how this permits public money to be funneled into private schools.

Tweet of the Month: From Dr. Jim Lloyd, Olmsted Falls Superintendent. “Chew on this: did you know that a family of 4 in Ohio making less than \$54,000 doesn’t qualify for free & reduced lunch, but a family making \$150,000 qualifies for a voucher that will give them \$6k-\$8k.”

More on Vouchers: OEA President Scott DiMauro weighed in [via an opinion piece](#) in the Ohio Capital Journal, “with the explosion in the number of wealthier families taking public taxpayer dollars to pay for private school tuition for students who were already attending private schools in the first place, it is clear the state’s spending on the universal voucher program will far exceed the original budget estimates.”

Bill Phillis, the legal force behind the DeRolph school funding case, and current Executive Director of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding, has penned a [thorough article](#) on the history of school governance in the state and our current constitutional violations.

Available data continues to illustrate that Ohio’s voucher scheme is taking from the poor to give to the rich. Read the [Cleveland dot com take here](#).

From that article, “*Enrollment in Rocky River City School District fell by just 22 students between last year and this year, even though the number of kids receiving vouchers shot up from 16 to 309. In Bay Village City School District, there are 30 fewer students, despite a voucher jump from 13 to 229. Westlake City School District has 19 fewer students; vouchers in the district spiked from 41 to 581.*”

HB407: Introduced by Republican Reps Gayle Manning and Bill Seitz, [this bill](#) will increase fiscal and academic accountability for schools that take vouchers. While it is championed by OEA, the bill does not require private schools to administer the state assessments or grind their teachers through an excessive evaluation system.

HB411 would raise the minimum teacher salary in Ohio to \$50,000. Introduced by former teacher, Democrat Rep Joe Miller.

Check out Honesty for Ohio Education's [Legislation Tracker](#) to follow these and other bills on their magical journey through Ohio's gerrymandered General Assembly.