

The Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding

50 South Young Street, Suite M-102, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614.228.6540 | Fax: 614.228.6542 | Email: ohioeanda@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Allerding
Galion City
470 Portland Way N
Galion, OH 44833

March 7, 2023

Dear Superintendent Jennifer Allerding,

Nearly 40% of Ohio school districts are members of the Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding in the lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher program. The Plaintiffs have cleared a major hurdle—Franklin County Common Pleas Judge, Jaiza Page, on December 16 ruled against the State Defendant's Motion to Dismiss. (20 organizations, including all major statewide education organizations, filed Briefs in support of the Plaintiff's Brief in Opposition to the State's Motion to Dismiss.) The lawsuit is going forward with very substantial support from the public education community.

The rationale for joining the effort is compelling. The need is immense. The time is now. The public school system is endangered.

The 135th General Assembly is poised to enact a universal voucher program (SB11) while many in the public education community are attempting to decide if a universal voucher program is a problem for school districts. Others don't believe that the General Assembly would be brazen enough to pass a universal voucher scheme.

Regarding the effect of vouchers on school districts, if every student is eligible for a voucher, the cost of vouchers for full-tuition-paying families and homeschooling families would accrue to \$750 million to a billion immediately. Additionally, more public school students will transfer to private schools upon becoming eligible for a voucher. Private schools will pop-up everywhere with the advent of universal vouchers. There is more. The voucher lobby will demand (and receive) a higher per voucher amount. Transportation costs due to more voucher students will skyrocket.

Will the legislature be brazen enough to pass a universal voucher plan? Absolutely! Look at the history of vouchers. In the early 1990's Governor Voinovich appointed a choice committee headed by his friend and beneficiary, David Brennan. Of course, the committee recommended a full scale voucher program; but realizing there was very little public support for vouchers, Voinovich and company started the small Cleveland Voucher Program predicated on the need to "rescue some student from a low performing district". Since that time the Cleveland voucher pilot project has morphed to a "voucher for all" crusade.

Enclosed is a Resolution of Joinder and invoice for your consideration. Please direct questions or comments to William L. Phillis, 614.332.2886 or ohioeanda@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,

Cathy
Cathy Johnson
Temporary Chair of the Steering Committee
Board Member, South-Western City Schools

Bill
William L. Phillis
Executive Director

Enclosures (2)

Steering Committee: Cathy Johnson | Jill Ackerman | Monte Bainter | Vaughn Bell | Linda Blum | Eve Bolton | Eric Brown | A.J. Calderone | T.C. Chappellear | Mike Collins | Walter Davis | Steve Dyer | Polly Taylor-Gerken | Dan Heintz | Nneka Jackson | Lori Snyder-Lowe | Craig McKendry | Joel Parker | Tom Perkins | Beryl Brown Piccolantonio | Eric Resnick | Jocelyn Rhynard | Ginny Stewart | Andrew Wilson | Charles Wilson | Donna Wilson | Richard Vilardo, *Ex-Officio* | Executive Director: William L. Phillis | Administrative Assistant: Lisa Myers

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DUES INVOICE: FISCAL YEAR _____

To: _____ **School District**

DUES FOR ANNUAL COALITION MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL EDCHOICE VOUCHER LITIGATION DUES

Most recent report card enrollment * _____ x \$2.00 = \$ _____

***Please Initial Here That Report Card Enrollment Is Being Used:** _____

Total Enclosed:** \$ _____

****The TOTAL amount of dues paid per fiscal year should not exceed \$2 per pupil**

Please Mail Payment To:

**Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding
Muskingum Valley ESC
205 N. 7th Street
Zanesville, Ohio 43701-3791
Phone: 740-452-4518**

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| T.C. Chappellear | Mike Collins | Walter Davis | Steve Dyer | Polly Taylor-Gerken | Dan Heintz | Nneka Jackson | Lori Snyder-Lowe |
Craig McKendry | Joel Parker | Tom Perkins | Beryl Brown Piccolantonio | Eric Resnick | Jocelyn Rhynard | Robert Smith | Ginny Stewart
| Andrew Wilson | Charles Wilson | Donna Wilson | Richard Vilaro, *Ex-Officio* | Executive Director: William L. Phillis, 614.332.2886 |

VOUCHER JOINDER RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, EdChoice Vouchers are funded by the State from designated appropriation line-items 200-550, 200-604, 200-612 and payment to private schools diminishes the amount of funding and levels of educational opportunities in school districts; and

WHEREAS, the deduction of school voucher funds from funds available to the school districts further reduces the funding available to support the additional needs of district minority pupils, pupils in poverty and pupils with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the deduction of school voucher funds from the appropriations that fund school districts increases reliance on local tax revenue to maintain school operations in violation of the Ohio Constitution and clear directives of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Section 1. Now, Therefore, The Board of Education finds and determines that the deduction of school voucher funds from school districts is harmful to the districts, its pupils, taxpayers, voters and staff.

Section 2. The Board of Education authorizes and directs the School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) and directs the District Treasurer to pay Coalition dues as set forth in Section 3.

Section 3. Coalition dues for the _____ school year are the sum of \$2.00 per district pupil (enrollment listed on most recent report card). Dues shall be allocated by the Coalition as follows: 1) \$.50 per pupil shall be initially allocated to the payment of Coalition operating expenses, and, 2) \$1.50 per pupil shall be allocated to the support of the Coalition's efforts in opposition to the deduction of school voucher funds from this, and other school districts. Coalition Dues (a total of \$2 per pupil) are payable upon passage of this resolution.