

Good afternoon. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak.

My name is Dan Greenberg and I am an English teacher at Southview High School in Sylvania. I am also the father of three daughters who attend Sylvania Schools.

I got up this morning, took my oldest daughter to school with me, taught my English classes, attended a meeting, and then drove two and a half hours to speak to you for a three or four minutes. When I'm finished, I will drive another two and a half hours home. I'll get back in time to tuck my kids in to bed and lesson plan, so I can be back in front of my students at 7:30 tomorrow morning.

Being here this afternoon is no small undertaking, and I would not be here today, to speak for three or four minutes, if I did not think the voucher issue was of critical importance.

We truly are at a crisis point.

If there is not a substantial fix to the current policy on vouchers, it will have a drastic impact on public education across the state, something 90% of Ohio's children rely upon to educate them, to provide critical services and food for them, to make sure they are ready for life after graduation.

As it is, the EdChoice policy is already straining districts. Students and teachers are facing pressure to raise test scores, to achieve unattainable and confusing ratings for their districts and their schools. When they don't, districts and schools are labeled failing. Teachers are demoralized. Taxpayers criticize the schools and then swear they won't vote for another levy. Families send their children to private schools and take precious tax dollars from the public schools.

My school district has already been hit hard by EdChoice vouchers. Last year, two Sylvania elementary schools were designated EdChoice. Because of that, 63 students have taken EdChoice vouchers, costing the district over \$276,000 this year. 22 of those vouchers went to students who were incoming kindergartners, who had never stepped foot in Sylvania Schools. If no more students took an EdChoice voucher in Sylvania, the district would still be at risk to lose 3.6 million dollars to educate those students at private schools through their graduation from high school, because the voucher eligibility stays with those students year after year through their K-12 education, as long as they maintain residence in Sylvania and apply for the voucher.

As it stands, a third elementary building in Sylvania is on the EdChoice list for the 2020-21 school year, meaning an additional hundreds of thousands of dollars drained from Sylvania Schools.

It's the 7,800 students and their families who remain in Sylvania Schools who are hurt most by this voucher program. The school district will not realize any cost savings by 63 students

attending private schools, especially when many of those kindergartners who took EdChoice vouchers were never planning to attend Sylvania Schools. It's not as if the district will need less teachers, will need to heat fewer buildings, will reduce any bus routes. EdChoice will simply mean a reduction in resources for Sylvania children.

I am urging you, on behalf of those 7,800 Sylvania students, on behalf of all students who attend public schools across Ohio, please make the necessary changes to Ohio's voucher policies.

Do not continue with a policy that takes money directly from local school districts by deducting voucher costs from districts' state aid.

Do not continue to use a broken report card system, which unfairly labels schools as failing in areas such as K-3 literacy, to determine who is eligible for vouchers.

Do not continue with a policy that provides "choice" for a few, leaving the vast majority with less choice, less opportunity because of less funds.

Instead, if vouchers are going to continue in Ohio, use a system like the one in SB 89, which was passed by the House.

Create a policy that is not based on standardized test scores, because those test scores do not account for all the positive things that are happening in Ohio's public schools.

Create a policy that does not falsely label schools as failing, a label that diminishes a community's confidence in their local public school system.

Create a policy that allows all Ohio's children the opportunity to thrive and to receive a high quality education.

Thank you for your consideration.