

I am Matt Nielson, a member of district 24 living in Valley City.

I am wholeheartedly against using public funds for private schools in whatever form they present themselves. Be it direct payment, a voucher, a 'savings,' a tax credit, or any other way.

Our State Constitution in Article VIII Section 2 states

"The legislative assembly shall provide for a uniform system of free public schools throughout the state, beginning with the primary and extending through all grades up to and including schools of higher education, except that the legislative assembly may authorize tuition, fees and service charges to assist in the financing of public schools of higher education."

If we fund private schools, we are not following our constitution.

Also, the use of public dollars to fund private schools in other states has deteriorated the level of overall education of those states. (See Michigan)

Instead of funding private schools, I would suggest better funding public education so we can pay our teachers competitively and have adequate facilities to enhance education.

Thank you for taking this information into consideration.

Matt Nielson
District 24 Constituent