

The brief explanation above for SB 223 is completely misleading because of the language in the bill prohibiting non-registered Private schools from participating in extra-curricular activities. That is quite a hammer, presumably at the behest of the Teachers Unions, given the importance of all the activities provided through OSAA. You are not necessarily going quite as far as the KKK did in the early 1900's with the banning of private schools (most of which were Catholic in nature), but the language of this bill provides the groundwork for essentially making all private schools de facto public schools bound by the exact curriculum dictated by the state. The specific language included at the inception of this change is bad enough, but the carte blanche authority provided to the Supt of Schools down the road is counter to the reasons that private schools exist, giving parents a real choice in education matters. The law takes that choice away from parents and families. I wish I could take comfort in the fact that the "advisory" committee would be mostly representatives of private schools, but advice is illusory if the Supt. of Schools is not bound by law to take it. I don't know why the "voluntary" registration program was discontinued, but the most that should come out of this is a return to that status. Private schools have the ability to maintain "accreditation" from agencies other than the state and if the democratic end game here is not incrementally forcing them to be "quasi-public" schools that should be enough to allow them to function "Privately" and still participate in the kinds of extra-curricular activities provided by OSAA and National Honor Society.