

# GANNETT

It's all within reach.

**Letters: Let free market rule school salaries**

**Sep. 24, 2013**

As the [power](#) and scope of government continues to expand beyond checks and balances, unelected bureaucrats' discretion in policy implementation increasingly goes without scrutiny.

Furthermore, these same unelected bureaucrats' salaries exceed six figures without any scrutiny from the public. They complain about the heavy burden of property taxes but cry foul to allowing educational markets to develop and function. According to Post-Crescent Media, 12 [school](#) district administrators alone in northeastern Wisconsin have bigger salaries than Gov. Scott Walker, whose salary is \$144,000, according to [pewstates.org](#).

Unfortunately, all [public school](#) employees' salaries don't reflect the market, especially school district administrators. It should be obvious that these salaries are driven by politics rather than markets. At least, in a free market, teachers and principals are subjected to the demand of consumers determined by supply and demand. The most competent would be rewarded with high salaries, and district administrators would serve no purpose because consumers wouldn't demand their services. These positions were created by government creating unnecessary bureaucratic structure, which imposes high costs on the hapless taxpayer.

According to a Cato Institute study, real spending per pupil ranges from \$12,000 in Phoenix to \$27,000 in New York, where in those respective areas, public spending is 93 percent more than estimated median cost for [private schools](#). Private schools still manage lower costs despite the public school monopoly.

How can public [schools](#) cost twice as much per capita as private school?

The expropriated money appropriated for public [education](#) is a monopoly. A coercive monopolist always tends to produce goods or perform services inefficiently and at substandard quality. Why?

There is no competition and market-based price mechanism controlled by voluntary consumers. Prices are determined by consumers unless it is a coercive monopolist, who then determines prices.

Clinton J. Stumpf,

Menasha

