

# EdChoice Scholarship Program

## Fact Sheet for 2026-2027

### WHAT IS OHIO'S TRADITIONAL EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The EdChoice Scholarship Program provides state-funded scholarships to K-12 students who meet the eligibility criteria listed below. The scholarship must be used towards tuition to attend participating private schools.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR TRADITIONAL EDCHOICE?

The following students are eligible to apply for a Traditional EdChoice Scholarship:

- Students entering grades K-12 who would be assigned to EdChoice public school buildings regardless of where they attended school the previous year;
- Those enrolled in and attending EdChoice public school buildings in their districts of residence;
- Students whose sibling received a traditional EdChoice Scholarship in the preceding year;
- Students who previously received an Autism or Jon Peterson Scholarship but no longer qualify because they no longer need special education services;
- Students who are foster children;
- Students who reside in a certified foster home;
- Students placed with a guardian, legal custodian or in kinship care;
- Students who reside in the same household as a student who was placed with a guardian, legal custodian or in kinship care for at least 45 consecutive days;
- Students who reside in the household of another for at least 45 days and but for not living there would have been homeless; or
- Students who reside in a household with a student who would have been homeless (see previous criteria) for at least 45 consecutive days.

Students who do not meet any of the preceding eligibility criteria are eligible for the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship if they meet the following criteria:

- Student does not live in the Cleveland Municipal School District; and
- Submit household income for verification.

### WHO IS CONSIDERED A SIBLING?

In reviewing applications, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will use the definition from section 3310.033 of the Ohio Revised Code:

“Sibling” means any of the following:

- a) A brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister by birth, marriage, or adoption;
- b) A cousin by birth, marriage, or adoption who is residing in the same household;

- c) A foster child who is residing in the same household, including a child who is subsequently adopted by the child's foster family;
- d) A child residing in the same household who is placed with a guardian or legal custodian;
- e) A child who is residing in the same household and is being cared for by a kinship caregiver;
- f) Any other child under eighteen years of age who has resided in the same household for at least forty-five consecutive days within the last calendar year.

### **WHEN SHOULD A FAMILY APPLY?**

The application period for the Traditional EdChoice Scholarship program opens February 1st, 2026, and will remain open through June 30th, 2027. Families must complete the enrollment/admission process at the participating private school for fall 2026. Upon enrollment acceptance at the participating private school, families may choose to complete the application for an EdChoice Scholarship, which will be submitted by the private school through the secure online application system.

### **WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?**

Parents will need to provide the private school with a copy of the student's birth certificate, a copy of current proof of address less than 90 days old and the Scholarship Request Form to apply for the scholarship. Additional information such as notarized letter, custody documentation, or foster care information may be needed for determining student eligibility for a scholarship.

### **WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?**

The EdChoice Scholarship amount is currently \$6,166 for grades K-8 and \$8,408 for grades 9-12. EdChoice will pay either the scholarship amount or the private school's actual tuition amount, whichever is less.

**NOTE:** Any application submitted after October 14th, 2026, will be awarded at a prorated amount based on how much of the school year remains after the date of the student's enrollment in the private school.

### **WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?**

The scholarship amount can only be used towards tuition. Parents and/or guardians may still have to pay registration fees, material fees, and other similar types of fees. If the private school's tuition is higher than the EdChoice Scholarship amount and the family does not qualify for low-income status (at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines), the family may have to pay the difference. However, families who qualify for low-income status do not have to pay any tuition that is not covered by the scholarship. In order for the family to be considered for the low-income status, the family must submit their household income annually to the Department of Education and Workforce.

## HOW WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS BE NOTIFIED OF THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION?

The application information will be reviewed within 14 days. The private school will be notified within 14 days if errors or deficiencies have been identified. Please contact your private school regarding any questions about the application. Awarding of scholarships will be done periodically and an award letter and acceptance form are mailed to the parents/guardian. Parents/Guardians can monitor their student's application(s) through the [online parent portal](#).

## CAN THE EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP BE RENEWED?

Yes, the scholarship can be renewed each year through grade 12 as long as the student:

1. Does not move to another public school district, unless the student would be assigned to an EdChoice designated public school in the student's new district (applicable only to students who were initially awarded a scholarship based on an EdChoice designated building);
2. Takes all required assessments; and
3. Does not have more than 20 unexcused absences for the school year.

Parents renewing their child's scholarship must provide a copy of current proof of address less than 90 days old and the Scholarship Renewal Form.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Find more information about [EdChoice](#) on the Department's website or contact [edchoice@education.ohio.gov](mailto:edchoice@education.ohio.gov).

The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program is still available for residents of the Cleveland Municipal School District. Find more information about the [Cleveland program](#) on the Department's website.

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