

—Division of Accountability
and Quality Schools
—Center for Student
Support and Education
Options
—Quality School Choice
and Funding
—Educational Options
—EdChoice Scholarship

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Click on the Parent Information link.

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Important Dates to Remember—

February 1, 2013—Student appli-
cation and income verification pro-
cess for the 2013-2014 school year
begins

April 19, 2013—Student application
and income verification process
ends

July 2013—Scholarships awarded.
Students and schools notified of
scholarship awards

August/September 2013— School
year begins. EdChoice Scholarship
students begin attending participat-
ing private schools

EdChoice Scholarship Program

FACT SHEET

The State of Ohio can provide up to 60,000 eligible students with scholarships to attend the participating private school of their choice. Students from schools that have been either: 1) rated in Academic Emergency or Academic Watch - the lowest categories in the state's school rating system - for two of the past three school years or 2) ranked in the lowest 10% of public school buildings by their performance index score for two of the past three school years are eligible to apply

What is Ohio's Educational Choice Scholarship Program?

The Ohio EdChoice Program provides a limited number of state-funded scholarship to student who attend low-performing public school buildings. The scholarship may be used to attend private schools that meet requirement for program participation.

When will EdChoice applications be accepted?

If a student is eligible for the EdChoice Scholarship program, the first step is to apply for admission at a participating private school. Parents of eligible students can and should start that process now. Students must first be accepted for enrollment at a participating private school for next school year and then apply for an EdChoice Scholarship through the participating private school.

On February 1, 2013 ODE will once again open the EdChoice Scholarship Application through its secure, Web-based system for the participating private schools to enter applications. Staff members of the participating private schools have access to the system and will help students apply for the scholarships by entering information into the online system. All scholarship applications must be submitted by April 19, 2013.

Who is eligible to apply for EdChoice?

The following students are eligible to apply for an EdChoice scholarship:

- Students currently enrolled in and attending a listed public school building in their resident district;
- Students currently enrolled in a public community school (charter school) who would otherwise be assigned by their public school district to one of these designated listed buildings;
- Students currently enrolled in a regular public school in their resident district or community school who would be assigned to attend one of the listed buildings for the upcoming school year.
- This refers to students moving from elementary school to middle/junior high school OR from middle/junior high school to high school; and
- Incoming students who are eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2013 and who would be assigned by their public school district to one of these listed buildings.

What is the value of the scholarship?

The EdChoice Scholarship amount is currently \$4250 for elementary school students (kindergarten through grade 8) and \$5000 for high school students (grades 9 through 12) or the private school's actual tuition amount, whichever is lower. Deadline-April 19, 2013

Will parents/guardians have to pay any amount of money?

Parents and guardians still may have to pay registration fees, material fees and other similar types of fees. The scholarship amount covers only school tuition. If private school's tuition is higher than the EdChoice Scholarship amount and if the student's family income is above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, the family may have to pay the difference or participate in volunteer service activities in lieu of cash payment. Deadline April 19, 2013

If a student receives an EdChoice Scholarship, how long can he or she continue to attend a private school?

There will be a scholarship renewal process each year. Once a student receives an EdChoice Scholarship, he or she can renew it in future years through 12th grade, 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;
- 2) Takes all required state achievement tests; and
- 3) Has good school attendance. Students cannot have more than 20 unexcused absences in a school year.

Are current private school or home-schooled students eligible to apply?

Students who are currently enrolled in private, non-public schools or who are home-schooled are NOT eligible for Ohio EdChoice Scholarships.

Should parents and students apply for an EdChoice Scholarship first, or apply for admission to a private school first?

Parents and students should first apply for admission at the participating private school. All students who apply for an EdChoice Scholarship must have been accepted for enrollment at a participating private school. To ensure that students have been accepted for admission by the participating school, the private school staff will enter student information into the secure Web-base EdChoice application system.

Will every child who applies to participate be awarded?

Under current law, there is a cap of 60,000 EdChoice scholarships to be awarded statewide. There are no income requirements for EdChoice Scholarship program eligibility. However, if ODE receives more than 60,000 applications, student who are renewing their scholarship receive first priority in a lottery, followed by students who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.



The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program still is available for residents of the Cleveland Municipal School District. For more information about the Cleveland program, please visit their Web site at: <http://cstp.education.ohio.gov>