JON PETERSON SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

Ohio Department of Education

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- OR -

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Visit the ODE web site at:
http://education.ohio.gov/jonpeterson
Search for "Peterson" in the search box in the upper right hand corner

JPSN Providers Search
JPSN Frequently Asked Questions

Dates To Remember:

FULL YEAR APPLICATION —
Application Period:
February 1 - April 15

Scholarship Period:
July 1 - June 30

HALF YEAR APPLICATION—
Application Period:
October 1 - November 15

Scholarship Period:
January 1 - June 30

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) gives the parents of children with disabilities the choice to send their child to special education programs other than the one operated by their school district of residence to receive the education and the services outlined in their individualized education program (IEP).

Who is Eligible to Apply for the Scholarship?

Children who are eligible to attend kindergarten through 12th grade, have been identified as a child with a disability and who have a current, finalized IEP from their district of residence are eligible to apply.

When will JPSN applications be accepted?

There are two application periods annually. The first application period begins in February and ends on April 15th. Scholarships awarded to this group of applicants will be for the full school year. The second application period begins in October and ends on November 15th. Scholarships awarded during this second application period will be awarded for half of the school year (January 1 through June 30).

How do I Apply for the Scholarship?

If a student is eligible for the JPSN Scholarship, the first step is to select a participating JPSN scholarship provider to submit a scholarship application on behalf of the student. For a list of private schools go to: https://scholarship.ode.state.oh.us/provider If multiple providers are selected, only one is able to submit the initial application. Additional selected providers will be able to access the application after it has been awarded and add applicable information.

What is the value of the scholarship?

The scholarship amount is the lesser of the fee/tuition charged for the child by the special education program up to the maximum amount awarded based on the child's special education category. Maximum scholarship amounts range from $7,317 to $20,000 per school year. Refer to the Category Amounts chart on the JPSN scholarship website for specific details.

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

The scholarship pays for the child's education and services on the child's IEP. Cost of education is only covered if the JPSN provider is a chartered non-public school. Parents/legal guardians are also responsible for any costs exceeding the amount of the scholarship.

*Beginning July 1, 2014, Category 1 (Speech and Language only) students may only utilize their scholarship to pay for related services that are included in the IEP. Students in this category cannot use the scholarship to pay tuition (education) at the nonpublic school.

Are children who are in private school or are home schooled eligible to apply?

Yes, but they must first obtain an IEP from their district of residence.

Can a child attend school in the public district and use the scholarship to pay for support services?

No. The scholarship is an educational choice program. If a student is approved for the scholarship, the public district is no longer responsible for providing a free and appropriate education (FAPE). The student must use the scholarship to obtain their education AND supportive services, from approved providers.

Will every child who applies be awarded a scholarship?

No, the number of scholarships awarded cannot exceed five percent of the total number of Ohio students identified as child with a disability. If the number of eligible students who apply for a scholarship exceeds the number of available scholarships, a lottery will be conducted.

If my child is awarded a scholarship, how long can he/she continue to use the scholarship?

The scholarship application process occurs on a yearly basis. If the student continues to be identified as having a disability by their resident district and has a current IEP, then a parent may submit a renewal application for the next program year.