

Guidance for the 2021-2022 Additional Eligibility Criteria for Traditional EdChoice

Ohio's 2022-2023 biennial budget contains a number of important changes that impact Ohio schools and districts, including changes to eligibility criteria for the traditional EdChoice Scholarship Program. In addition to the current student eligibility criteria for the 2021-2022 school year, a student may be eligible for a traditional EdChoice scholarship if the student meets any of the following criteria set forth in the newly enacted legislation:¹

- (A)(1) a home school student for 2020-2021 who is or would be assigned for the 2021-2022 school year to a school that is on the [2019-2020 designated list](#);
- (A)(2) a student new to Ohio during the 2020-2021 school year (regardless of where the student was enrolled and attended for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year) who is or would be assigned for the 2021-2022 school year to a school that is on the [2019-2020 designated list](#);
- (A)(3) an incoming kindergarten student who would be assigned for the 2021-2022 school year to a school that is on the [2019-2020 designated list](#);
- (A)(4) a student assigned to a school during the 2019-2020 school year that was on the [2019-2020 designated list](#) and moved and for the 2020-2021 school year was or would have been assigned to a school on the [2020-2021 designated list](#);
- (A)(5) an incoming nonpublic school ninth-grader enrolled in or would be assigned for the 2021-2022 school year to a school on either the [2019-2020](#) or [2021-2022](#) designated list;
- (A)(6) all siblings of 2020-2021 traditional EdChoice Scholarship students and any sibling of a student who now qualifies for a 2021-2022 traditional scholarship under (A) (1)-(5) above.

Private schools can begin submitting applications for the criteria listed above on July 15, 2021.

Here are some examples of how this impacts eligibility:

My child was homeschooled for the 2020-2021 school year. The building he would be assigned to is not on the 2019-2020 designated school list but is on the 2021-2022 designated list. Is he eligible for a traditional EdChoice Scholarship?

No, unless he has never attended an Ohio school. Homeschool students who have never attended an Ohio school (public, private, community school) can be eligible based on the 2021-2022 list as they would be newly enrolled in Ohio schools.

¹ House Bill 110, section 733.70, 134th General Assembly.

My fourth grade private school student has an incoming kindergarten sibling who is eligible for a traditional EdChoice Scholarship based on the criteria above (A)(3). Is my fourth grade student eligible for the traditional EdChoice Scholarship?

Yes. Based on the sibling criteria (A)(6), the sibling is eligible to apply.

My student just completed the eighth grade at a private school and would be assigned to a school on the 2021-2022 designated school list. Is he eligible?

Yes. The incoming ninth grade student is eligible as his assigned school is on the 2021-2022 designated list.

My student just finished 10th grade at a private school and would be assigned to a school on the 2019-2020 designated school list. Is he eligible?

No. Incoming 11th grade students are not eligible based on the criteria listed above.

My incoming kindergartener is assigned to a school that is on the 2019-2020 designated school list but is not on the 2021-2022 designated school list. Is my child eligible?

Yes. The assigned school only needs to be on the 2019-2020 designated school list.

My child attended a traditional public school during the 2019-2020 school year. That school was on the 2019-2020 designated school list. We moved and for the 2020-2021 school year he attended a private school but his assigned school in our new district was on the 2020-2021 designated school list. Is he eligible to apply?

Yes. The child is eligible to apply as both schools he was assigned to are on the designated school list for each respective year.

We were new to Ohio during the 2020-2021 school year (moved into Ohio for the first time). My daughter attended a private school for second grade for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The school she would be assigned to for third grade is only on the 2021-2022 designated list. Is she eligible to apply?

No. The building the student is assigned to must be on the 2019-2020 designated school list to be eligible.

My daughter received an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year and my son received a traditional EdChoice Scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year. Can my daughter switch to a traditional EdChoice Scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year based on the sibling eligibility in (A)(6) above?

No. Students should renew the scholarships they currently receive if they meet the renewal eligibility criteria.

Who is considered a sibling?

In reviewing applications, the Department will use the definition in newly enacted 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.”

A student who is not eligible for the traditional EdChoice Scholarship potentially may be eligible for the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship if the student lives in the state of Ohio and the student’s household meets the low-income requirements of the program. Please see the private school for information and questions regarding the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship program.

**** This guidance was prepared to help families understand the eligibility criteria in recently enacted legislation. The guidance is for demonstration purposes only. The Ohio Department of Education cannot guarantee a student’s eligibility or award of an EdChoice Scholarship. A student’s eligibility and award will be determined through a review of the student’s application and related information. If the information in the guidance indicates the student may not be eligible for a scholarship and the student wants to pursue a scholarship, the Department encourages the student to apply.***