

Parents and EdChoice Scholarships

How do Governor Strickland's ideas about the EdChoice Program affect your child's EdChoice Scholarship or your child's potential for acquiring an EdChoice Scholarship?

The EdChoice Scholarship Program is in Ohio Law. It was legislatively created and is funded via the state budget. Rep. Jon Husted (Speaker of the House) was the primary architect of the program. The Governor's **State of the State** report represents his **ideas** for future debate. *As of now, nothing changes.* It would take action by the General Assembly to shut the program down.

Parents and students who believe in the importance of keeping their EdChoice Scholarships are STRONGLY urged to write or e-mail their legislator IMMEDIATELY. Write to home residence legislator (*NOT the legislator of the school district*). Phone calls are not recommended. Copying the letter to Governor Strickland is also encouraged. Parents can have a great impact on the debate and voting of the General Assembly. These ideas may help you in formulating a letter.

Bullet Points to Include in Letters In Favor of Retaining Funding for the Ohio EdChoice Program

- The program allows me as a parent the opportunity and choice to select non-public schools that will provide a quality education for my child(ren).
- Next to the family, my child's (children's) education significantly contributes to his/her development and success as a citizen in the State of Ohio. When our local public school was rated academic warning/watch, the EdChoice Program provided me with the **choice** to select non-public schools that could offer the quality of education I desire for my child.
- The program enables my child(ren) living outside the City of Cleveland, and attending public schools rated by the State of Ohio as being on academic warning or watch for two of the past three years to receive vouchers to attend approved non-public schools.
- Over 300 non-public elementary and secondary schools in the State of Ohio are registered as EdChoice Schools for 2007-2008. These schools have already begun to enroll children of hopeful parents selecting schools that will provide for their child's educational success. The EdChoice scholarship allows parents the **choice** to leave failing schools.
- There are no income requirements for the EdChoice vouchers, so parents who are not at poverty level, but may be struggling with financial obligations like having several students in college; assuming responsibility for elderly parents; coping with illness or disability and other circumstances, are greatly helped by this program.
- If you have already had a child or children enrolled in 06-07 in an EdChoice non-public school, please include any stories about improved achievement or safety, etc. in your letter.