



## FIVE FAST FACTS

# EdChoice Scholarship Program

The EdChoice Scholarship (Voucher) Program began in fall 2006 and was the third voucher program created in Ohio. It uses taxpayer dollars to allow eligible students to attend participating private schools.



**1. The EdChoice Scholarship Program provides up to 60,000 vouchers for certain students in grades K-12 to attend participating chartered nonpublic (private) schools.**

Under the program, certain public school buildings are designated EdChoice buildings. Students who are enrolled in or would otherwise be assigned to these buildings are able to apply for an EdChoice voucher. Public school buildings are designated EdChoice buildings if they are either:

- rated in academic emergency or academic watch for two of the past three school years;
- ranked in the lowest 10% of public school buildings by their performance index score for two of the past three school years.

**2. Funding for the voucher is deducted from the resident school district.**

In fiscal year 2012, approximately \$75 million was deducted from public schools and diverted to private schools for the EdChoice program. The voucher amount is \$4,250 for elementary school students (K-eight) and \$5,000 for high school students (nine-12) or the private school's actual tuition amount, whichever is lower. Voucher students are counted in the average daily membership (ADM) of the resident school district and the actual voucher amount is deducted from the school district of residence.

# FAST FIVE FACTS ON EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## RESOURCES

Ohio Department of  
Education EdChoice  
Scholarship Program  
Web page

<http://edchoice.ohio.gov>

### 3. Public schools can improve their academic achievement and continue to be penalized under this program.

The EdChoice program continues to punish public school districts when their buildings improve and are no longer eligible for the program. Students participating in the EdChoice Scholarship Program can renew their vouchers through 12th grade, regardless of the academic rating of the public school the student would otherwise be assigned to. The vouchers are renewable, regardless:

- If the home public school building improves and is removed from the list of designated schools.
- If the student would otherwise be assigned to a public school building that has never been considered eligible for the program. For example, if the original eligibility was based on an elementary school building, the student could continue to receive the voucher although he or she now would be assigned to a high-achieving middle or high school building.

### 4. Private schools accepting vouchers are not held to the same standards as public schools when it comes to accountability for student achievement.

Students using the EdChoice voucher are required to take the state assessments. However, private schools accepting the vouchers and using public taxpayer dollars are:

- *not* required to administer state assessments to all of their students below high school (only students receiving vouchers must take state assessments);
- *not* issued a local report card;
- *not* required to comply with the third-grade reading guarantee;
- *not* required to comply with the Ohio Teacher Evaluation and Ohio Principal Evaluation systems.



## Ohio School Boards Association

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*OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.*

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### 5. Private schools accepting vouchers are *not* held accountable for spending public taxpayer dollars.

Private schools accepting vouchers are not held accountable through publicly elected boards of education. They are not held accountable for the expenditure of public dollars they receive and are not subject to public audit. In addition, private schools are able to choose which students will be admitted if they accept vouchers. Voucher students must apply for admission to participating private schools and private schools can choose which students to accept. It is the private schools that have a choice, not the students and parents.