



SCHOOL
CHOICE
OHIO



CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP AND TUTORING PROGRAM A DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY

PROMOTING · EQUAL · ACCESS · TO · QUALITY · EDUCATIONAL · OPTIONS

In Cleveland, thousands of parents are using the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program to send their child to the private school of their choice. The Cleveland Scholarship is one of the longest-running tax-funded scholarship programs in the country, having been created by Governor George Voinovich in 1995.

"I am extremely satisfied with the program. It offers opportunities to my child that she would not otherwise have."

- Parent of a Cleveland Scholarship Recipient

CLEVELAND · SCHOLARSHIP · AND · TUTORING · PROGRAM

- More than 5,000 students currently use a Cleveland voucher to attend private school.
- Families can choose from 36 participating private schools.
- Low-income families must pay at least 10% of the tuition costs. Non-low-income families must pay at least 25%.
- For low-income students, the scholarship is worth \$4,500 in high school and \$3,825 in grades K-8. For non-low-income students, the scholarship is worth \$3,750 in high school and \$3,187 in grades K-8.

STUDENT · ELIGIBILITY

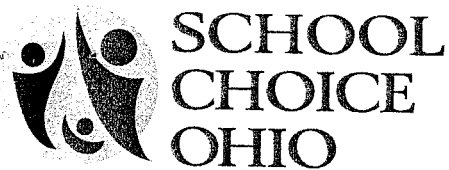
- All students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are eligible for the scholarship.
- First priority is given to students in low-income families.
- Private school and public school students are eligible.
- The Ohio Department of Education notifies all Cleveland students of their eligibility for the scholarship.

STUDENTS · ATTEND · QUALITY · SCHOOLS · AND · CONTINUE · TO · TAKE · STATE · ASSESSMENTS

- All participating private schools must be chartered by the Ohio Department of Education and adhere to the State Board of Education's Operating Standards of Ohio's Schools.
- As part of the Ohio Operating Standards, all teachers at private schools hold teaching credentials.
- All Cleveland Scholarship recipients take the Ohio Graduation Test.

LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASE:

The Cleveland Scholarship has become famous across the country because it was the subject of a landmark Supreme Court case, *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*. Opponents of the scholarship claimed that the scholarship violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment because parents were able to use the scholarship at religious schools. In 2002, the US Supreme Court ruled that the scholarship program is constitutional because, among other things, the program has an important secular purpose and is neutral about religion.



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OHIO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

HELPING KIDS ACROSS THE BUCKEYE STATE

“Parents should have a choice when it comes to their children’s education.” — Shari, parent

Across Ohio, thousands of parents use state-funded scholarships to send their children to the school they choose. Through Ohio’s four scholarship programs, parents are able to direct a portion of the tax money that is designated for their child’s education. These scholarships save taxpayer money and grow in popularity every year. More than 20,000 students use them to get the education they need to reach their potential.

Private schools that participate in the state’s scholarship programs are screened by the Ohio Department of Education and must adhere to the Ohio Schools Operating Standards.

CLEVELAND · SCHOLARSHIP · AND · TUTORING · PROGRAM

Created in 1995

- More than 5,000 Cleveland students receive scholarships to attend private schools
- All students that live in the Cleveland School District are eligible; low-income families have first priority
- Families can choose from more than 40 schools citywide
- Scholarship maximum is up to \$5,000 per year and parents are required to pay at least 10% toward tuition costs
- Known nationally for its role in a landmark Supreme Court case that ruled vouchers are constitutional, even when used in religious schools.

AUTISM · SCHOLARSHIP

Created in 2003

- More than 1,600 students in more than 50 of Ohio’s 88 counties
- Any student on the autism spectrum ages 3-22 is eligible to participate
- Families can choose from 200+ private schools, therapists, and agencies
- Worth up to \$20,000 per year – \$10,000 less than public schools receive for the students
- The number of students with autism in Ohio has doubled from 6,000 to 12,000 in the past five years

EDUCATIONAL · CHOICE · SCHOLARSHIP · (EDCHOICE)

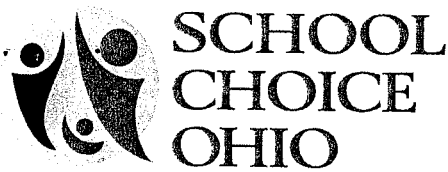
Created in 2005

- More than 15,000 students in 38 school districts across the state use an EdChoice Scholarship to attend private school
- Scholarships are reserved for students in the state’s lowest-rated public schools.
- Families can choose from more than 300 private schools statewide
- Scholarship maximum is \$5,000, half of the statewide average per pupil cost of more than \$10,000
- The number of available scholarships was raised from 14,000 to 30,000 in June 2011

SPECIAL · NEEDS · SCHOLARSHIP

Created in 2011

- After many years of advocacy by parents and state leaders, the new Special Education Scholarship extends the benefits of the popular Autism Scholarship Program to any student with a special need.
- Beginning in 2012, the scholarship will allow any student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to use state money to pay for private school tuition.
- Scholarships are worth \$7,000 - \$20,000, depending on the student’s disability.
- The number of available scholarships is capped at 5% of the total number of students with special needs. Roughly 13,000 scholarships will be available for the 2012-13 school year.



AUTISM & AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP FAST FACTS

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FAST · FACTS · ABOUT · AUTISM

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are complex, lifelong, neurobiological disorders that involve impairments in communication, social, and behavior domains. These symptoms can range from very mild to severe.
- ASD includes three diagnoses: Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS).
- Up to 1 in 110 students in the United States is diagnosed with an ASD, the nation's fastest-growing serious development disability.
- Despite long waiting lists for diagnoses, the number of students in Ohio diagnosed with an ASD rose by 19% in the last year.
- ASD crosses all racial, ethnic, and social lines. It is four times more common in boys than girls.
- Characteristics of an ASD can be detected as early as 6 months old.
- There is no cure for an ASD.

EDUCATION-RELATED · IMPLICATIONS · (AUTISM · SOCIETY · OF · OHIO)

- The measured intelligence of students with an ASD varies widely. Even students with a high IQ can still experience significant learning problems and benefit from accommodations in the classroom or in testing situations.
- The most difficult problems relate to the students' inability to recognize and respond to the behavior and communication of others. For example, students with an ASD may not see the "big picture" or recognize all of the cues in their environment.
- Delay in social skills, or anti-social behavior may be symptoms of an ASD.

EDUCATIONAL · BEST · PRACTICES · FOR · STUDENTS · WITH · AUTISM

- Early intervention is critical to gain maximum benefit from existing therapies and has a huge impact on a student's educational trajectory.
- There is no single treatment protocol for all children with an ASD, but most individuals respond best to highly-structured behavioral programs. (Autism Speaks)
- Individualized programs often include several components, such as speech therapy, social skill development, and behavioral therapy. No single option fills the needs of everyone with an ASD. (Autism Society of Ohio).

THE · OHIO · AUTISM · SCHOLARSHIP · AND · OUTCOMES · FOR · STUDENTS

- Created in 2003 to address individual learning needs, preschool and school-age children diagnosed with ASD are eligible, which allows for critical early intervention.
- Allows parents to choose from more than 200 service providers and private schools to find the right program for their child.
- Worth up to \$20,000 per year, which is more than \$10,000 less than what public schools receive for students with an ASD.

FAST FACTS

PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

After many years of advocacy by parents and state leaders, the new special education scholarship extends the benefits of the popular Autism Scholarship Program to any student with a special need or learning difference.

- On June 30, 2011, Governor John Kasich signed the state budget into law and finalized the creation of the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, which will begin in 2012. The scholarship will allow any student in grades K-12 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to attend the private school of their choice.
- The number of available scholarships is capped at 5% of the total number of students with special needs in the state. Ohio has approximately 235,000 students with an IEP, and therefore, about 11,750 scholarships will be available for the 2012-13 school year.
- Scholarships can be used for one or more of the following:
 - Tuition at private schools that offer special education services
 - Services at private therapists and other service providers
 - Other public schools outside the student's home district

Determining Scholarship Amounts

- Scholarship amounts will be based on the child's special education category. See the chart below.
- This is the only scholarship program in the state where there is parity between the voucher amount and that child's public school funding amount, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

| Special Education Category | Scholarship Funding per Student | Number of Ohio Students in Category ¹ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 – Speech and Language Impairments | \$7,196 | 21,554 |
| 2 – Learning Disability | \$7,608 | 163,611 |
| 3 – Hearing or Vision Impaired | \$14,832 | 20,730 |
| 4 – Major Health Impairments | \$17,902 | 2,178 |
| 5 – Multi-handicapped | \$20,000 | 12,289 |
| 6 – Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, Hearing and Vision Impaired | \$20,000 | 15,096 |

¹Ohio Department of Education data for 2010-2011 school year

Applying for a Scholarship

- Beginning in 2012, there will be two application periods each year.
 - April 15 – deadline to receive a scholarship that will begin between July 1 and Dec. 31
 - Nov. 15 – deadline to receive a scholarship that will begin between Jan. 1 and June 30
- The Ohio Department of Education is determining the details of the application process, and more information is expected to be available soon.

To learn more about the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, or for information about becoming a provider, contact Cheryl Bowshier at specialneedsinfo@schoio.org.