

What is EdChoice Scholarship Program? The Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides students from public schools deemed underperforming by the state the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The program also provides low-income students who are entering kindergarten through sixth grade the same opportunity. The program provides up to 60,000 EdChoice scholarships to eligible students.

What students are eligible to receive the EdChoice Scholarship?

- Students currently attending a private/parochial school in grades 9-11, even though they never attended a public high school.
- Students attending a public school in their resident district who will be assigned to the designated public schools for the upcoming school year.
- Students eligible to enter kindergarten for fall 2020 (and who will be five (5) years of age by January 1, 2021 who would be assigned to one of the designated public schools).
- Students enrolling in an Ohio school for the first time who would be assigned to one of the designated public schools for the upcoming school year.

What criteria is used to determine this designation? *The Ohio Department of Education is using data from the Ohio School Report Cards from 2013-2014, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 to designate a school or schools meeting one or more of the following conditions (impacted DCS schools are listed in bold):*

- *Performance – If any of the following is true for two report cards from 2014, 2018, 2019: If the school received a Performance Index grade of D or F and a Value-Added (overall) grade of D or F on the 2014 report card, the school received an overall grade of D or F or a Value-Added (overall) grade of F on the 2018 or 2019 report card. **Jefferson High School falls into this category.***
- *Graduation – The school serves grades 9-12 and received a Graduation Rate grade of D or F on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019.*
- *Lowest 10% - The school(s) ranked in the lowest 10 percent of public school buildings on the Performance Index on the Ohio School Report Cards for any two Performance Index rankings from 2014, 2018 and 2019; the school did not receive an overall grade of A or B on the 2019 report card.*
- *Literacy – The school received a grade of D or F for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019.*
- *District Performance – No districts are eligible under this criterion.*
- *Academic Distress – The school’s public district has an academic distress commission.*

What will be the projected financial impact to DCS? The state will deduct from our public school district funding to cover the cost of scholarships awarded per student from our district. The projected impact will be financially devastating for the DCS and many other public school districts. It is difficult to predict the number of students who will apply for scholarships. We are projecting the financial impact to be:

For fiscal year 2020-2021: \$1,050,000.00

What happens when Jefferson High School improves its grade card and is no longer an EdChoice school? Once a student is awarded the EdChoice Scholarship, they continue on the scholarship until graduation, but no new scholarships would be awarded once Jefferson High School is no longer an EdChoice building.

What is EdChoice Expansion? The EdChoice Expansion Program is an income-based program. It offers private school scholarships to students whose families have a lower income. The EdChoice scholarship amount is \$4,650 for grades K – 8 and \$6,000 for grades 9-12. ***EdChoice Expansion is paid for by the state, not the public school district.***

What if a student is already on the EdChoice Expansion and also qualifies for the Scholarship? By default, the student would automatically enroll to the Scholarship, which is paid for by the public school district. The expansion (state share) would be eliminated.

Are there any efforts from the state to amend the EdChoice scholarship program?

Senator Matt Huffman admits that schools with an overall grade of C or higher should not be designated an “underperforming” school. Huffman has recently stated that IF legislators can agree to an amendment BEFORE February 1, 2020 then public schools (like Delphos Jefferson High School) would no longer be designated an EdChoice school. IF they cannot make this amendment prior to February 1, 2020, the money would continue to flow into private schools and likely not be stopped.

How many schools in the state have been identified as an EdChoice school? There are approximately 3300 public school buildings in Ohio. Of that 3300, over 1200 are now identified as an EdChoice school this year. Ohio has more than 600 public school districts in Ohio, with now more than 400 districts with at least one building designated as an EdChoice school.

