

Affording a Catholic Education in Ohio Now at Your Fingertips with Universal EdChoice



Ohio's Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program is now accessible to **ALL Ohioans!** Thanks to sweeping changes outlined in HB 33 and signed into law on July 3 by Governor DeWine, **EVERY** student now has the opportunity to attend a participating Catholic school for **little or no cost.**

Originally enacted in 2005 to serve families living in underperforming school districts, the program has been expanded multiple times over the past 18 years to aid more families, particularly those with lower incomes. But, now, every Ohio family - regardless of their residence or household income - can utilize state scholarship dollars to help fund tuition at the Catholic **school of their choosing.**

What does this mean for you?

Simply, an **affordable** and **unapologetically Catholic** education is right at your fingertips!

Families at 450% or below of the Federal Poverty Guideline will receive the maximum scholarship allowed by law. Those at 451% or more will receive a portion of the full scholarship amount, dependent on their household income and family size.



← **Scan to Determine Your Family's Eligibility!**

Federal Poverty Guideline Percentage	K-8 Scholarship Amount*	9-12 Scholarship Amount*
0-450%	\$6,165	\$8,407
451-500%	\$5,200	\$7,050
501-550%	\$3,650	\$5,000
551-600%	\$2,600	\$3,550
601-650%	\$1,850	\$2,500
651-700%	\$1,300	\$1,750
701-750%	\$900	\$1,250
751% and up	\$650	\$950

*Scholarship amounts shown are for a family of four.

Qualify for EdChoice Traditional AND Expansion?

Families in our diocese living in an underperforming school district who previously qualified for the Traditional EdChoice scholarship now have the option to choose the one that provides the greatest financial benefit to them.

Under the new Expansion guidelines, if their Federal Poverty Guideline results in a scholarship less than the maximum amount of a Traditional Scholarship, the Traditional Scholarship will provide a greater financial benefit. In addition, the family will not need to submit any income verification, unless they qualify for low-income status (200% or below the Federal Poverty Guideline). Contact your school for further clarification.

Applying for a Scholarship is as Easy as 1-2-3!*

- 1 Reach out to your school(s) to get started or visit <https://bit.ly/ohioedchoice>.
- 2 Complete a **Scholarship Request Form** for EACH eligible student in grades K-12 who is enrolled in Our Catholic Schools. Submit the request form, as well as a copy of the **student's birth certificate** and **current proof of address** (see scholarship request form for accepted documents) to the appropriate school(s) for submission via the online application system.
- 3 Complete the **income verification process** at <https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal>. An OH|ID is required for online submission.

The deadline to request scholarships for this academic year and receive the entire amount for which the family qualifies is **October 14, 2023**. Any application received after this date will be awarded at a pro-rated amount by the Department of Education and Workforce.

*Families who previously were approved for an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship for the 2023-24 school year need to do nothing at this time. Your scholarship will be updated automatically based on the new scholarship amounts.

EdChoice: Empowering Parents Today for the Future

The Ohio Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program provides students throughout the State of Ohio the opportunity to attend participating private schools for **little or no cost**. Enacted in 2005 to serve families living in underperforming school districts, the program has since expanded to provide **increased opportunities** to all Ohio families with scholarships up to \$6,165 for K-8 and \$8,407 for grades 9-12.

Due to the recent changes in the state's biennial budget, families 450% or below of the Federal Poverty Guideline are eligible for the full EdChoice scholarship amount. Families above 450% will be eligible for a portion of the scholarship, dependent on their income and family size.

MAX SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS

K-8: \$6,165/student
9-12: \$8,407/student

23-24



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

What are Federal Poverty Guidelines?

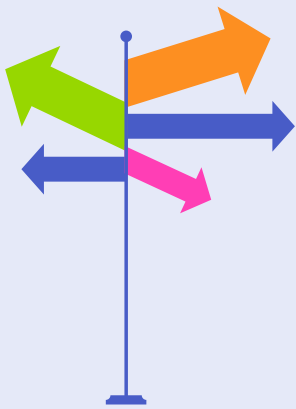
The poverty guidelines are a simplified version of the statistical thresholds used by U.S. Census Bureau for calculating the number of people in poverty. Poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to **determine financial eligibility** for certain programs and vary by family size. In 2023, a family of four (4) at 450% of the Federal Poverty Guideline has a **gross income of \$135,000/year**.



School Choice is NOT a New Concept!

There are over **75 educational choice programs** in 32 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including **8 right here in Ohio!**

- EdChoice Scholarship
- Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship
- Ohio Tax Credit Scholarship (SGO)
- Autism Scholarship



CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION
Revised in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Pope John Paul II
Includes revision of paragraph no. 2267 promulgated by Pope Francis



The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children," and, "As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. The right is fundamental."

Making a high-quality, unapologetically Catholic education affordable for families is one of the foremost priorities for the Diocese of Columbus.

Scan the QR code to learn more about EdChoice and all of the scholarship opportunities available!



"Too often Catholic Americans fail to appreciate that they have a right to subsidies for their schools because these institutions provide a service to society."

-The Holy See

Why EdChoice?

Simply, the EdChoice scholarship provides parents with the opportunity to **choose the school** that is best-suited for their child(ren) based on the **factors most important** to them.

TOP FACTORS WHY PARENTS CHOOSE A PRIVATE EDUCATION*

40.8%

Academic Quality or Reputation

29.6%

Safe Environment

28.7%

Morals/Character/Values Instruction

27.3%

Structure/Discipline

*Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022)