



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SCHOOL VOUCHER ENROLLMENT PERIOD STARTS TUESDAY 2/1;
85,453 OHIO STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (January 31, 2011) – Beginning Tuesday, February 1, parents of children who attend chronically low-performing Ohio public schools can apply to send their children to private schools using state-funded school vouchers. According to School Choice Ohio, more than 84,000 children are eligible for the Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program for 2011-12, but only 14,000 children can be accepted because of a state-mandated cap on program enrollment.

To be eligible for scholarships, children must attend any of the 197 schools—spread across 28 school districts—that have been classified as being in “academic watch” or “academic emergency” for two of the past three years. A list is available at www.scoho.org, and the State of Ohio provides details at edchoice.ohio.gov. Students who currently participate in the EdChoice program must also apply for re-enrollment.

To apply for the vouchers, which are worth up to \$5,000 per year, parents must apply for their children to attend the private school of their choice. After the child is accepted, the private school will complete the process by sending the application to the Ohio Department of Education. Approximately 300 private schools are eligible to accept EdChoice scholarship recipients. A complete list of these schools can be found online at www.scoho.org.

The program, which was started in 2006, almost reached its student enrollment cap during the 2010-11 school year, with more than 13,000 children benefiting from vouchers. The enrollment period closes on April 15, 2011.

“We encourage parents to act quickly and enroll their children in this transformational program,” said Chad Aldis, executive director of School Choice Ohio. “Given the high demand for the EdChoice Scholarship Program over the past several years, we anticipate that the enrollment cap will be met this year, unless there is a legislative improvement to the program that allows more children to participate.”

About School Choice Ohio

School Choice Ohio (SCO) is committed to the goal of every child in Ohio having access to a quality education. Because this is not yet a reality, the organization works tirelessly to educate both the public and our leaders on the importance of empowering parents to find the best educational setting for the needs of their children. SCO believes that all parents should have the opportunity to choose which school is best for their children, regardless of their income level.

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FACTS: Student Eligibility in EdChoice

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A student is eligible to apply for the scholarship if he or she:

- Is enrolled in and attending an EdChoice-designated public school building (rated academic watch or academic emergency for two of past three years);
- Is enrolled in a community (charter) school and would otherwise be assigned to one of the EdChoice-designated public school buildings;
- Is enrolled in a regular public school or community school and would be assigned to attend one of the EdChoice-designated public school buildings for the upcoming school year (this provision is for students moving from one level of school to the next, such as elementary to middle school if the middle school is an EdChoice designated public school building); or
- Is eligible to enter kindergarten in the next school year and would be assigned to one of the EdChoice designated public school buildings.

**EdChoice-Eligible Students in Each District for 2011 Enrollment Period
(Based on 2009-10 ODE Enrollment Data)**

County	District	Eligible students (est.)	Number of EdChoice-designated schools
Franklin	Columbus	16627	47
Hamilton	Cincinnati	15752	30
Montgomery	Dayton	10689	22
Lucas	Toledo	5618	15
Mahoning	Youngstown	4548	9
Lorain	Lorain	3560	9
Summit	Akron	2957	10
Clark	Springfield	2897	8
Trumbull	Warren	2647	3
Cuyahoga	East Cleveland	2645	4
Stark	Canton	2387	8
Butler	Middletown	1866	4
Muskingum	Zanesville	1319	3
Marion	Marion	1215	3
Cuyahoga	Maple Heights	1160	2
Allen	Lima	1138	3
Cuyahoga	Warrensville Heights	1030	2
Franklin	Whitehall	958	2
Montgomery	Trotwood-Madison	954	2
Cuyahoga	Euclid	911	2
Franklin	South-Western	672	1
Hamilton	Mt. Healthy	479	1
Montgomery	Jefferson Township	478	2
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Hts - University Hts	463	1
Richland	Mansfield	463	1
Erie	Sandusky	450	1
Athens	Federal Hocking	294	1
Columbiana	East Liverpool	163	1
	<i>Statewide total:</i>	84340	197