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K-12 Enrollment for Two School Voucher Programs Opens Today

Cleveland Voucher and EdChoice Scholarship programs now accepting applications for 2012-13 school year

CLEVELAND, Ohio (Feb. 1, 2012) – Parents of children who live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District or who attend the state’s lowest performing public schools in neighboring districts can begin applying **today** to send their children to the school of their choice using state-funded school vouchers.

“Ohio’s school voucher programs give families the opportunity to send their children to a school that best fits their learning needs,” said School Choice Ohio Executive Director Matt Cox. “These scholarships have changed the lives of thousands of Ohio students who now have the opportunity to attend the school of their choice.”

All K-12 students who live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are eligible to apply for a school voucher through the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program, with preference given to low-income families. These scholarships are worth \$3,825 for K-8 students and \$4,500 for students in grades 9-12.

This will be the first year in the program’s history that current high school students are eligible to apply.

In addition, there are 217 EdChoice designated public schools across Ohio (18 in Cuyahoga County), which have received a rating of “academic watch” or “academic emergency” for two of the past three years or are ranked in the bottom 10 percent of schools in the state based on performance-index scores.

EdChoice scholarships are worth \$4,250 per year for students in grades K-8 and \$5,000 per year for high school students. In the recent state budget, Ohio leaders increased the number of EdChoice scholarships available from 14,000 to 60,000.

A student is eligible to apply for the EdChoice Scholarship Program if he or she is one of the following:

- A student who is enrolled in and attending an EdChoice designated public school building
- A student who is enrolled in a charter school (including an online charter school), and would otherwise be assigned to an EdChoice designated public school building
- A student who is enrolled in a charter school or non-eligible public school but would be assigned to attend an EdChoice designated public school building in the upcoming school year
- A student who is eligible to enter kindergarten in the upcoming school year and is assigned to an EdChoice designated public school building

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Parents who are interested in applying for either scholarship program should follow these simple steps:

Step 1:

Parents who live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District can check the participating private schools list available online at www.scoho.org and begin calling and visiting private schools to find the right fit for their child.

Parents who do not live in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District can determine if their child is eligible for an EdChoice scholarship by checking the eligible public schools list that is also available online at www.scoho.org. Once parents confirm their child's eligibility, they can check the EdChoice participating private schools list and begin contacting those schools to find the right fit for their child.

Step 2: Parents enroll their child in the participating private school of their choice.

Step 3: The chosen private school will then apply for the scholarship on behalf of the parents.

The deadline to apply for the Cleveland voucher is May 31, 2012, and the deadline to apply for the EdChoice Scholarship is April 13, 2012.

For the complete list of EdChoice eligible public schools and the lists of participating private schools for both programs, visit www.scoho.org.

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Note to the Editor: The list of private schools that participate in the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program is available online [here](#). In addition, the complete list of EdChoice designated schools is available online [here](#), and the complete list of participating private schools is available online [here](#). If you would like to arrange an interview with a family in your area that is using a state scholarship to send their child to a private school, please contact Kaleigh Frazier, School Choice Ohio's communications director, at 614-859-5460