



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **EdChoice Scholarship Enrollment Period Opens Today**

*Approximately 100,000 Ohio students eligible to apply for 2012-13 school year*

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb. 1, 2012) – Parents of children who attend the state’s lowest performing public schools can begin applying **today** for an EdChoice scholarship to send their children to the school of their choice using state-funded school vouchers. Approximately 100,000 students are eligible to apply for the EdChoice Scholarship Program for the 2012-13 school year.

“The EdChoice Scholarship Program gives Ohio families the opportunity to send their child to the school that best fits their learning needs,” said School Choice Ohio Executive Director Matt Cox. “Receiving an EdChoice Scholarship has been a life-changing experience for thousands of Ohio students and families.”

There are 217 EdChoice designated public schools across Ohio, 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.

Parents who are interested in applying for the EdChoice Scholarship Program should follow these simple steps:

**Step 1:** Parents can determine if their child is eligible for a scholarship by checking the eligible public schools list available online at [www.scoho.org](http://www.scoho.org).

**Step 2:** Once parents confirm their child’s eligibility, they can check the participating private schools list and begin calling and visiting private schools to find the right fit for their child.

**Step 3:** Parents enroll their child in the participating private school of their choice.

**Step 4:** The chosen private school will then apply for the EdChoice Scholarship on behalf of the parents.

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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

Currently, 15,403 students are using an EdChoice scholarship to attend the school of their choice. These students must also apply for re-enrollment to continue receiving the scholarship. Students who already attend a private school and students who are homeschooled are not eligible to apply for the program. The application period for the EdChoice Scholarship Program closes on April 13, 2012.

For more information about Ohio's scholarship programs, and for the complete lists of EdChoice eligible public schools and participating private schools, visit [www.schoio.org](http://www.schoio.org).

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**Note to the Editor:** A complete list of EdChoice designated schools is available online [here](#). The complete list of participating private schools is available online [here](#). If you would like to arrange an interview with an EdChoice family in your area, please contact Kaleigh Frazier, School Choice Ohio's communications director, at 614-859-5460