



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deadline for School Vouchers Fast Approaching

Columbus, Ohio (March 16, 2010) – More than 88,000 children across Ohio are eligible for a private school voucher, and the application deadline for next school year is in less than a month. The voucher – called the Educational Choice Scholarship – allows students who attend an underperforming public school to attend a private school with a state-funded scholarship.

“The scholarship offers a lifeline to parents whose children are attending low rated schools. If they are dissatisfied, it’s important that parents know that this opportunity exists and that it can improve their children’s education,” said Chad Aldis, executive director of School Choice Ohio. “Interested parents must act now because after April 16, this opportunity will be gone.”

The first step for families interested in this scholarship is to apply at a participating private school. Interested parents can check www.schoio.org or call the School Choice Ohio toll-free hotline 1-800-673-5876 for more information on eligibility, guidance on how to apply, and a list of participating private schools.

Students must be admitted to a private school before the state deadline of April 16 to be eligible. Private schools will then submit the official scholarship application directly to the Ohio Department of Education.

Once a child obtains a scholarship, he or she can continue to use the scholarship through high school graduation. The scholarships are worth up to \$5,000 per year and can be used at any of more than 270 participating private schools.

The scholarship has generated tremendous interest from parents. Scholarship use has grown from just under 3,000 in the 2006-07 school year to more than 11,500 student recipients during the current school year.

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MEDIA SERVICES

School Choice Ohio is available to provide assistance to members of the media who seek to cover the EdChoice program. For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Interviewing Parents & Students

School Choice Ohio can arrange interviews with members of the media and parents who receive EdChoice vouchers for their children. These parents can discuss the application process and the benefits of the EdChoice program. Parents are available in the following cities:

- Cincinnati
- Columbus
- Dayton
- Mansfield
- Toledo
- Akron
- Youngstown
- Canton
- Lorain

Find Out If Your Local Schools Qualify

To see if a public school in your area is underperforming and has students who qualify for EdChoice vouchers, download the list at www.SCOHIO.org or use this direct link:

<http://www.scoho.org/PDF/ECEligiblePublicSchools10-11-1-20-10.pdf>

You can also visit www.SCOHIO.org and click on the EdChoice link to access a list of eligible private schools.

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.