



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ann Riddle, Outreach Associate
Phone: (419) 351-4852
Email: ariddle@schoio.org
Web: www.schoio.org

More than 1,700 Toledo Students Set to Use EdChoice this Fall *State vouchers help students attend local private schools*

Toledo, Ohio (August 10, 2010)—This fall more than 1,700 Toledo students are set to attend one of 23 Toledo area private schools with financial help from an EdChoice voucher. Thanks to the vision of former State Representative Dixie Allen, at the time a Democrat, and the leadership of former House Speaker Jon Husted, these Toledo students are among 14,000 students in Ohio who will use an EdChoice voucher this year to attend the private school of their choice.

Carol Light is the grandmother of a sophomore who will be attending Central Catholic High School this fall thanks to EdChoice: “I really appreciate that my granddaughter has gotten the scholarship for Central Catholic High School, and I am hoping that she will receive the scholarship next year as well. I am totally supportive of the scholarship program.”

For the first time this year, the popular EdChoice Scholarship Program reached its state-imposed cap of 14,000 students. EdChoice is only available to students in chronically underperforming public schools and allows them to receive vouchers to attend the private schools of their choice.

The program was enacted in 2005 and began with around 3,000 students in its first year. The EdChoice program is one of America’s largest voucher programs—and the nation’s single largest voucher program designed specifically to provide educational opportunities to children who are attending low-performing public schools.

“EdChoice is making a positive difference in the lives of thousands of Ohio children, so I’m not surprised by the popularity of this program or the fact that EdChoice reached its cap so quickly,” said Chad Aldis, executive director of School Choice Ohio. “As EdChoice has now reached the cap, it’s important that the scholarship be allowed to grow to keep pace with demand from families looking for another option for their children.”

EdChoice scholarships are worth up to \$4,250 per year at the elementary and middle school level and up to \$5,000 per year at the high school level. More than 300 private schools statewide are registered to accept the scholarship. Once a student obtains a scholarship, she or he can continue to renew the scholarship through high school graduation.

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.

###