

# EdChoice Expansion Scholarship Program

## Fact Sheet for 2024-2025

### WHAT IS OHIO'S EDCHOICE EXPANSION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The EdChoice Expansion Scholarship Program provides state-funded scholarships to K-12 students based on household income level. The scholarship must be used to attend private schools that meet requirements for program participation.

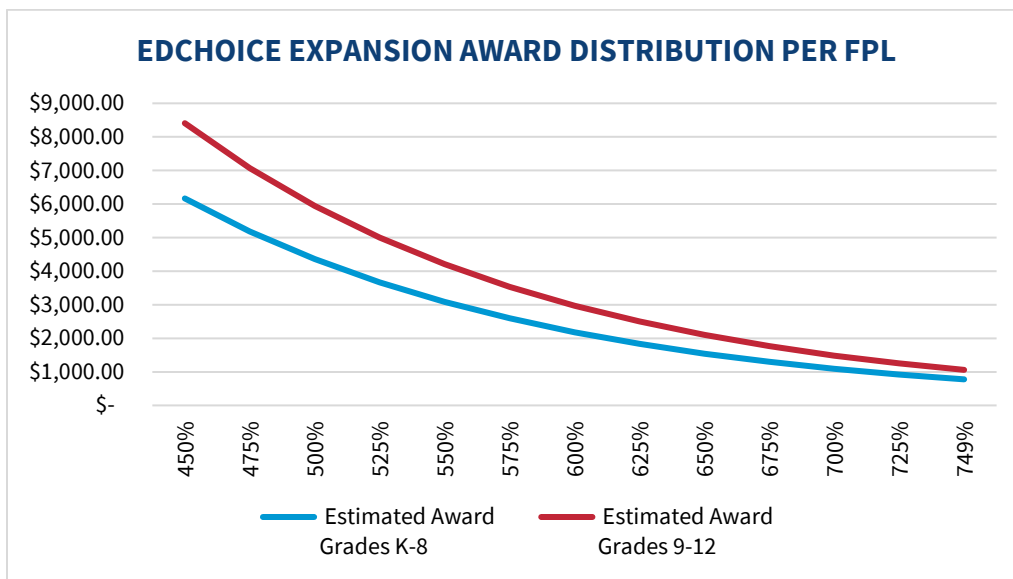
### WHEN WILL EDCHOICE EXPANSION APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

The application period for the **EdChoice Expansion Scholarship** program opens February 1st, 2024, and will remain open through June 30th, 2025. Families must contact the participating private school and complete the enrollment/admission process for that school. Once students have been accepted for enrollment at a participating private school for fall 2024, they may apply for an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship through the participating private school. Participating private schools enter scholarship applications for students through the secure online application system.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EDCHOICE EXPANSION?

EdChoice Expansion is an income-based program. It provides students in grades K – 12 the opportunity to attend a private school at no or a reduced cost. This program is open to students who do not qualify for the Cleveland Scholarship program.

Scholarships for EdChoice Expansion are awarded based on the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of a family's household. If a family's household income is at or below 450 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, they will be awarded the maximum scholarship amount. If a family's household income is at or above 451 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the student's scholarship award is reduced. The chart below reflects the award distribution at each Federal Poverty Level percentage.



## **WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?**

The maximum scholarship for students in grades K-8 is currently \$6,166 and \$8,408 for grades 9-12. The amount each student receives varies based on household income. The [specific estimated award amounts](#) can be found in spreadsheet form on the Department's website.

*NOTE: Any application submitted after October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, will be awarded at a prorated amount based on how much of the school year remains after the date of the student's enrollment in the private school.*

## **WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?**

The scholarship amount only covers tuition. Parents and/or guardians may have to pay registration fees, material fees and other similar types of fees. Families who qualify for low-income status (at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) do not have to pay any tuition that is not covered by the scholarship. However, if the private school's tuition is higher than the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship amount and the family does not qualify for low-income status, the family may have to pay the difference.

## **CAN THE EDCHOICE EXPANSION SCHOLARSHIP BE RENEWED?**

Yes, the scholarship can be renewed each year through grade 12 as long as the student:

1. Takes all required assessments;
2. Does not have more than 20 unexcused absences for the school year; and
3. Remains a resident of Ohio.

## **SHOULD PARENTS AND STUDENTS APPLY FOR AN EDCHOICE EXPANSION SCHOLARSHIP FIRST OR APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL FIRST?**

Parents and students must first apply for admission at the participating private school. Once the student has been accepted for enrollment at the private school, the private school submits the scholarship application for the student through the secure online application system.

## **WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?**

Parents will provide the private school with a copy of the student's birth certificate, a copy of current proof of address and the Scholarship Request Form to apply for the scholarship. Additional information such as student report card, notarized letter, custody documentation or foster care information may be needed for determining student eligibility for a scholarship. Parents renewing their child's scholarship must provide a copy of current proof of address and the Scholarship Renewal Form.

*NOTE: In addition to applying with the school, new expansion applicants will need to complete the income verification process. Renewing families will not need to complete the income verification process each year, unless they would like to have their household income recalculated for their award amount.*

## **HOW WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS BE NOTIFIED OF THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION?**

Conditional approval for EdChoice applications is provided within five days of the application being submitted in the online scholarship application system by the private school. The conditional approval letter will be generated and provided to parent/guardian by the private school. Conditional Approval is the preliminary review of an application to determine if the student is eligible for a scholarship. This is not final approval of the application. The application information will be reviewed within 14 days. The private school will be notified within 14 days if errors or deficiencies have been identified. Please contact the private school regarding any questions about the application. Scholarship awards will be made on a regular schedule and an award letter and acceptance form are mailed to the parents/guardian.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?**

[Find more information](#) about EdChoice Expansion on the Department's website or contact [edchoice@education.ohio.gov](mailto:edchoice@education.ohio.gov).

The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program is still available for residents of the Cleveland Municipal School District. [Find more information](#) about the Cleveland program on the Department's website.

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