

To whom this may concern,

I am a parent of 2 wonderful students who attend Grove City Christian School. My high school student was eligible for the EdChoice program for the first time this school year and we were hoping my 8th grader would be eligible for this coming school year. We decided to send our students to GCCS even though 4 years ago when they started their school were not on the state list of failing schools. We made this choice because we saw where their assigned schools were headed. My son that year had 4 different classroom teachers, was bullied by a student and finally at the end of the year choked in the bathroom by that same student. Why the teachers didn't separate them I am only assuming because of their overcrowding they had in each classroom. My son passed the 3rd grade reading guarantee that year the very first time and I feel at that point he was pushed to the side so the teachers could work with those students that needed to pass. When we took my son to test in at GCCS and they immediately noticed that something was wrong with my son, he had dyslexia. Do you know I was never contacted one time by the 4 different teachers that my son had that year telling me that my son was struggling? When GCCS obtained my sons records from that school one teacher had noted that my son may need some help, again I was never contacted and I was blindsided by this news. What would have happened if we didn't stretch our budget and make the decision to send him to GCCS? Would he just be another student in trouble left in the system until he graduated? Currently we are eligible to be able to use the EdChoice program for my son this coming school year due to his current assigned high school being on the failing list. Our family will not be eligible for the new Buckeye program so we will have continue to pay for our son to attend GCCS if the EdChoice program is discontinued. We were hoping that we would be able to have a year where we don't have to struggle to pay our bills so our kids can have an outstanding education at GCCS. But what choice do we have? You are taking away the opportunity for middle class families to be able to make a choice to better their students. Why isn't Ohio protecting our Childrens education? We should have a choice for where our tax dollars are being spent. I can say this, our children would not be the amazing people they are today without the education they had received at Grove City Christian. I fear that if you take away the EdChoice program tax dollars are going to be spent with youth being in jail when they graduate, if they graduate, instead of them being model citizens to help our state. What would you rather use your tax dollars on? I know I don't speak for every parent that uses the EdChoice program however, I speak for our family and our story. I am sure there are other families with similar stories and how the public education system has failed their family. I beg you reconsider your choice to end the EdChoice program.

Thank You,
Angel Ison
One of many voices