

Hello. I would like to talk to you about why I believe edchoice scholarships are important and why they matter to my family. Education freedom and education choice has always been a part of our family life. When my youngest child was getting ready to start Kindergarten we looked into all of our school options. My husband worked second shift and I was a stay at home mom. The choice we made for our family at that point was homeschooling. Educational choice allowed my kids to see both parents during the week and it gave us the freedom to educate our kids in the best way for them. As my oldest kids entered the middle school years, I began to feel like it was time to take a fresh look at our education choices and I enrolled our kids in an online charter school. The first year went well. It was a change for the kids, but a good change. We were getting extra help with instruction and outside support for their education. I was over all happy with my experience and test scores showed my kids were learning. This year we began our second year with the charter school. Only this year was different. My kids days were being filled with remedial classes and test prep that my kids, who are on target in their learning, did not need. As I investigated, I discovered the reason for this. Although my children were doing well, the charter school had just received their second F rating on their state report card. And I discovered that with one more F, the school could be closed down. This caused me to reconsider if this school situation was really the best for my kids and I began considering other options for next year.

Around the same time I saw a news article about the new Edchoice list for the 20/21 school year being released. This is when I discovered Barberton High School was being added to the list and my kids were eligible for edchoice vouchers. This would be the assigned school for my 13 year old daughter and my 15 year old son. So I felt confident I could consider schools that accept the edchoice vouchers. We ended up deciding on a very small school nearby, Medina Christian Academy, which has about 20 kids per grade enrolled. The size was not over whelming for our formerly homeschooled and e schooled kids. It was far less intimidating than the 400 per grade at the public school. During the application process, our kids were allowed to attend Medina Christian to see how they liked the school. They loved it and were so excited to attend there next year. We encouraged their excitement, not knowing that this scholarship could be pulled away at the last minute. We are now looking into seeing if we can qualify for a low income scholarship, and hopefully we can. But this should not even be a question at this point.

Please don't break your promises to us and our kids. All of the educational choices that are available in Ohio are important. They have been important to me and to many others families. Please keep edchoice as one of those options and keep it available to as many families as possible. All families and kids are different and we need to have different choices available to best meet those varied needs. Please empower parents, the people who know their child best, to make the right choices for their education. Thank you for your time.