

Dear Education Committee,

My family is a grateful benefactor of the ED Choice Program. My family moved from Los Angeles to Cleveland Heights five years ago, we have recently moved to University Heights. Despite loving the area that we have moved to, we found the public school system does not fulfill the needs of our kids and we enrolled them in private schooling. We try to do what is best for our kids, but it comes with a significant impact to our income. To make matters worse, the property taxes in our city, University Heights, is high and there is talk that in the next local elections the School Board is going to request a significant increase in property taxes, which for our family, if we lose the Ed Choice Program living in University Heights will become unaffordable.

Any changes to the current ED Choice Program that removes funding, can and will cause detriment to many school children that currently benefit from the program. The Cleveland-University school district are well supported by the local communities. The School Board has been able to pass many levies with the support of the community that has increased property taxes since my family moved to Ohio to the point Cleveland/University Heights has almost the highest property taxes in the county. Despite the funding the public school receives, it still cannot service the needs of all students and that is the reason ED Choice is such a crucial program. The increase in popularity of the ED Choice program is testament that the Public Schools are not providing for the needs of many students and the Public Schools need to come up to grade before removing the Ed Choice Program from students who want to succeed in an alternative environment. Please do what is right for all kids not just the kids who go to public school, please do not remove funding from the ED Choice Program.

Thank you for your time

Darren Bonert
Resident of University Heights, Ohio