

To The Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

I am writing in regards to the Ed Choice scholarship program. My daughters attend St. Bridget Elementary School in Parma, Ohio. The school has given my children a wonderful and exclusive education thus far. They are in the second and fourth grades, and find the education they are receiving to be suitable for their needs. I feel the grading scale used at the school pushes them to do better. The idea that they are in the same school all the way until the eighth grade is reassuring to me as well. They are getting a Catholic based education, working God into their studies and everyday life is very important to us. I am a single mother. The girls father passed away in 2013 and that was hard on us. I would not be able to afford this education on my own. My oldest daughter did attend the assigned public school in our district for kindergarten and first grade. The school had 3 or 4 classes for each grade and felt she wasn't able to get the one on one attention she needed to catch on to some curriculum. After having a brush with some of the kids picking on her I began to look into other options for her education. I was informed about the Ed Choice scholarship through a friend and was incredibly grateful to be able to qualify. We as parents should be able to pick schools that fit our ideas of education. We shouldn't be forced to just accept whatever school our homes are zoned in. We pay taxes too, and being able to choose what type of education our children receive should be a right. I hope the committee will support the growing number of parents concerned for their child's education and recognize this as an investment in their future, which is important to the success of this nation.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Gallagher

Parma Heights, Ohio