

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a recipient of the EdChoice scholarship. I was disappointed by our representatives' decision to delay the scholarship application window. It was simply irresponsible to wait until the last minute to make that decision. It is unfair to families who rely on this program to have to delay their school decisions until the spring. They may lose their spot in a private school to families that do not use the voucher and be forced to delay other important decisions. We have so many family's that rely on EdChoice to make the best education decisions for their children and it is cruel to make them wait or take it away.

I decided before my children were even in school that I wanted a different kind of education for them. I chose Spring Garden Waldorf School when my daughter was only a year old. My mother was a public school teacher and I went through the public school system. I appreciate what our public schools offer - a free education, social support, a source of community pride. However, I also believe that education is not "one size fits all" and certain aspects of public education go against my personal (and research based) beliefs - that academics/homework don't belong in kindergarten, endless standardized testing is an ineffective measure of success, and lack of freedom for teachers to plan curriculum leads to burnout and stifles creativity.

I made financial sacrifices to ensure my children had the kind of education I believed was best for them. When I discovered the EdChoice scholarship, it was a huge relief. I can afford to send my children to the school that is best for our family. They are getting the kind of education I wish all children could experience. I am so, so grateful for the EdChoice scholarship and what it has allowed my children to experience - a play based curriculum in the early years and an overall education that focuses not just on academics, but on head, heart, and hands! Please allow Ohio's families to continue to the make the best choice for their family and continue the EdChoice scholarship!

Thank you,

Susan Hudson
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