

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to inform you of the difference the Ohio Ed Choice Scholarship has made in my family's lives. In 2013, we decided to apply for the Ed Choice Scholarship for our sons, who were entering 3rd and 5th grades. Despite being happy with the education they were getting at their assigned public elementary school, we were looking ahead to middle school and beyond. You see, our assigned public middle school had quite the reputation for low test scores, fights, and behavior problems. We decided this was not the worry we wanted to take on for our boys, so thanks to the Ed Choice Scholarship we were able to send them to St Augustine School in Barberton. My husband and I both work good jobs, however, we still wouldn't be able to afford the tuition for multiple children to attend private school.

Our boys adjusted well and quickly became part of the St Augustine School family, where we did not have to worry about some of the issues plaguing our public schools (poor behavior, disrespect for adults, and large class sizes). We have been very happy with their private school education, thanks to the Ed Choice Scholarship. We recommend our school to any of our friends that express discontent with their current situation.

Now, in 2020, we have our second grade daughter on the Ed Choice Scholarship, attending St Augustine School as well. Our boys are now in high school, one at Archbishop Hoban thanks to the Ed Choice Scholarship. We feel so fortunate that he is getting a world class education, previously only attainable for affluent families. All three of our children are excelling academically and are involved in extracurriculars. The thought of having to take all they know and love away from them at this point makes me physically sick! If the current Ed Choice Scholarship program were to be changed to all income-based, it would devastate us. We are a working class family that would not qualify as low income, yet would not be able to afford private school tuition. Please consider the upset changing the parameters of the Ed Choice Scholarship would cause for many families.

Thank you for your time.

Amanda Drouhard

Akron Ohio