

I felt compelled to send this email regarding my concerns regarding the possible elimination of the Ed Choice program. I wish I could be there to testify in person, but as I do not get paid when I am not at work, it is just not financially possible.

I am a single custodial grandmother of my granddaughter, Aliyah, who is 10 years old and a fourth grader at St. Joan of Arc Toledo. I was fortunate enough to send my children to both Catholic elementary and high schools as my situation was different 30 years ago. I have since divorced, been forced back into the work force, have full custody of my granddaughter and am now trying to provide the best education possible for my granddaughter. I currently work 40-50 hours a week to try and keep my bills paid and Aliyah supplied with everything she needs to maintain a "normal" childhood.

She started at SJA in preschool and is flourishing there both socially and academically despite her life and family challenges. The faith based education and family like surroundings are like no other. Aliyah is a straight A student and has yet to receive a B or lower. She currently reads at a 7th grade level.

Without my assistance from the Ed Choice scholarship program she would be thrown into a public school situation that would not only not challenge her, but would not be able to continue her faith based education surrounded by friends and teachers that truly make a difference in her unconventional young life.

I make continuous sacrifices in my personal life to provide the best life possible for Aliyah. I am begging you to not take the stability of SJA away from her. St. Joan of Arc is the right choice for Aliyah and I. Please don't take that choice away from us, especially from this intelligent, well-rounded, happy little girl.

I am begging you on behalf of Aliyah to keep this program viable and allow us as parents to make the BEST educational choices for our children!

Sincerely,

Janet M. Hepler

Sent from my iPhone