

To Whom It May Concern,

Please hear my words with in all honesty and gravity: EdChoice saved my daughter's education and emotional well-being. This is no exaggeration or dramatization. My Lydia went from "unsatisfactory" in all classes with poor testing marks, to ALL A's and B's. She has severe ADHD, and EdChoice not only gave her the opportunity to succeed, it gave us as parents the opportunity to introduce her to an environment that actually cared for her and brought a level of compassion that our public school failed in providing.

Akron Public Schools treated my daughter like a number at first, then like a problem after her diagnosis. She came home every day defeated and crying throughout K-2 grade. Her teachers described her as a distraction, while never offering support services. Even after her diagnosis we were denied the traditional assistance in the classroom and denied an IEP. She was "troubled, but not troubled enough." We *tried hard* to work with our public school and the administrators, but they did nothing, quoting extreme sizes of classes and teachers' overwhelm. After 2.5 years of decline, we were at our breaking point, and knew we had to try something new.

When my husband and I heard about the EdChoice Program, we immediately sought to place our daughter somewhere else. We interviewed Lake Center Christian, and literally cried on the first school visit. They had "wigggle seats," a sensory room, and teacher's aides for each class. They were focused on the individual child's success, not just meeting some standard. We knew that this was where our daughter would thrive, and we decided to drive 30 minutes one way each day to send her there. Within the first month, my daughter lit up like the sun-engaged, happy, excited to participate in school. The remarks from her teachers were kind and encouraging, and the level of education offered in the midst of her disability was completely different than our public school. Today, she's in fifth grade and is still excited to go to school each day!

Lake Center Christian was the best decision I have ever made as a parent, and I would never be able to provide such a nurturing environment on our own. They didn't see my daughter like just another disadvantaged or disabled kid, they saw her as a human needing love; they saw her as a child of God, and treated her as such. EdChoice is the single most important assistance our family has ever received from the state of Ohio. Please, please, *please* do not consider taking this educational life-saver away from Ohio children. You are potentially disrupting entire futures as this stage of life is critical for Ohio's young people. EdChoice is foundationally supporting tomorrow's Ohioans, today!

Highest Regards,

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