

To whom it may concern,

As a former recipient of the EdChoice scholarship, this opportunity has been life changing for me and for my siblings. As a child of a single mother of three children, our house burned down and left us struggling. We were able to find new housing, which eventually was foreclosed; forcing us to live with my grandmother. We chose the EdChoice program because it was my, and my brothers, only opportunity to have a quality, Christ-centered education. Amidst all of my family's housing struggles, one thing stayed constant: my education. My mom chose EdChoice and because of that decision, I was able to continue on to high school and eventually college to pursue a career in elementary education. If I did not receive the EdChoice scholarship, I would have been stuck in a failing school that did not fulfill my life-long love for learning. No student deserves that.

As a pre-service teacher and former EdChoice student, I fully believe that keeping students trapped in schools that are failing/receiving failing grades is wrong and a complete waste of taxpayer money. Every child deserves the opportunity for a quality education and every parent deserves to make that choice for their child - regardless of income.

Julia Grace Ehlert

Bowling Green State University 2023

Student: Inclusive Early Childhood Education (IEC)

College of Education and Human Development

jehlert@bgsu.edu