

Dear Committee Members,

My family lives in the Rolling Hills Local School District. I am providing written testimony to urge you to support the traditional EdChoice scholarship. My family of 5 doesn't meet the income guidelines, but yet, we can't afford the tuition for our daughter to attend Catholic high school next year.

My 2 school-age children currently attend St. Benedict School in Cambridge, where we privately pay for tuition. I believe switching my daughter to the local public school for high school next year will have a negative impact on her academically as well as socially. During her 7th grade year, she spent half of the school year in the public middle school because she felt she was ready for this transition. They were at least a year behind and she was not being challenged. The transition to public school was a huge culture shock. The things the students get away with saying and doing in schools prevent the classrooms from being conducive environments. Just look at any teenager's social media account! I've seen videos of teachers sitting at their desks while their students are running around the classrooms, middle school students vaping, fights in the lunch room and teachers sleeping at their desks. Needless to say, she was transferred back to St. Benedict School.

Meadowbrook High School, where our daughter will have to attend next year without the EdChoice Scholarship, was on the list of low performing schools. It was also on the list that the Senate released after revising the original list. We want to provide the best education for our children and believe that the best in our area is at Bishop Rosecrans. We have state test scores that prove this and they are attached to this email. Would you want your children to go to a school where only 19% of their students passed the Algebra I End of Year test and is well below the state average in all areas except for one?

After hearing about the Ed choice scholarship, we decided to have her apply for Bishop Rosecrans. She applied, took the placement test and was becoming excited about this endeavor. Our hearts were set on this excellent school to prepare our daughter for college and her future career. Then on January 31, that was put on hold because the rules were changed in the last minute. How fair is this to the children, families, teachers, and schools whose education and possibly jobs are on the line as a result of the EdChoice Scholarship revision? We are now all in limbo not knowing what next school year holds for us.

Please do not do away with the EdChoice Scholarship program. The middle class families, like us, are being lost in this shuffle.

Thank you for your time,
Nicole Forbes

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