

To Whom It May Concern,

In my absence, I am submitting this letter to show my support for program formerly called EdChoice which has recently been recently renamed the Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship program. The impact of this program has made a tremendous impact on my life and now that of my children. The local public intermediate school here in Galion Ohio has received a "D" on the 2019 Performance Indexing report card. This score gives me very little confidence that the public school system is the best choice in regards to my children's education. Through the EdChoice program I was able to research my options and find the school that I feel performs at a level that gives my children the necessary tools to be successful. I was able to choose the best school for my children not based on how much I could afford but on the merit of the school itself.

If this program were to be limited or changed in such a way that would disallow me from making the choice of sending my children to the school which provides the best opportunity for them to receive the best education, I would be forced to send my children to a public school that would limit their potential and undoubtedly undo the progress that has been made in their current highly structured environment that is focused on academic achievement. The environment at St. Joseph intermediate school is highly conducive to the education of my children through their smaller class size and the individualized attention afforded to the children. This stands in stark contrast to the poor teacher to student ratio and inability of the educators at the local public school to spend the necessary time with each child.

An additional aspect of this program that should be taken into consideration, is the criteria utilized to establish need and acceptance into the program. Current federal poverty level in 2019 for a family of four was set at \$25,750. If I were to make even one dollar over this amount, I would be excluded from being able to utilize this program. The result would be me paying 100% of the tuition which would negate any advances I have made to better myself financially. This does not promote a strong desire within the individual to exceed this level because the result would be at the cost of the education I am currently able to afford my children and additionally being forced to sacrifice other basic needs to recoup the additional cost I would then be paying for tuition. If a sliding scale were to be introduced which allows for partial benefits to be made available to parent as their income increases, it would allow parents the option to continue making the best education decisions for their children without fearing a marginal increase in their income would derail their progress and have a lasting negative impact on their children's education.

The importance of this program cannot be understated. The decisions of the law makers in the Ohio House and Senate will have a lasting effect on the lives of countless children and will not go unnoticed. I can assure you that in the coming elections the vote I will cast will be directed at those who are making the vote now which supports the needs of my children and promotes their opportunity of a better education in the future.

Single Working Mother of Three

Tiffany Kindler