

October 8, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I had always thought I would send my children to public school. I attended public school K-12, and received a great education. My parents were both public school teachers. I really never even considered *not* sending my children to public school. But when the time came for my oldest child to go to Kindergarten, the district where we lived was not in a good financial situation. Staff was being cut, such that class sizes were growing larger and specials such as art and music were being drastically reduced. My son is a bright and eager learner, who was reading before he started Kindergarten, and my husband and I were concerned about the quality of education he might receive in our local public school, that he may not get the proper amount of attention or stimulation. However, my husband is the owner of a small business and I am a stay-at-home mom (of 3 at the time, now 4), and it was very unlikely that we would be able to afford to send our son to a private school—we had only one option. That is, until we learned about the EdChoice Scholarship! We qualified to have his tuition paid for at a school that WE determined would best meet his needs—with smaller class sizes and more opportunities for enrichment—not just determined by our address. The EdChoice scholarship has been such a blessing to us. Our oldest son, who is now in 2nd grade, has thrived in school, and his younger brother, who just started Kindergarten, is thriving as well. The scholarship has truly lived up to its name—it gave us a choice!

Sincerely,  
Kaarina Schroeder  
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Parent of students at Our Shepherd Lutheran School, Painesville, Ohio