

Hello, I hope you are having a great day. My name is Mary Parobek. I am a 6th grader from Elyria, Ohio. First, I would like to thank you for your past support of the EdChoice Scholarship program. I think that the EdChoice scholarship is a great idea, but it does have some flaws that can be improved.

I am here today because I am a student that is directly affected by the EdChoice scholarship rules. Even though I am assigned to a failing school, I do not fit into the chart because I have always attended catholic elementary school. It is really hard for my family to afford tuition for me and my sister.

If I don't have enough money for tuition for a private, non-failing school, then my parents should be able to also apply for this scholarship, and not have to attend a failing school for even a quarter, to get a scholarship. Because the whole purpose of this scholarship is to have students be able to get a good education instead of having to attend a failing school.

Now I have moved to the failing middle school for the end of the year. I enrolled there because we can't afford private school for both of us, and this scholarship opportunity will allow me to continue going to my private school next year..

It is hard for a student to get pulled out of one school and into another where they have no idea what is going on. It is also hard to break contact from old friends and make new ones, only to have to lose contact with them after you get the scholarship and have to tell your old friends where you've been for the past year.

Going to a public middle school in the middle of the year is very stressful when you have to change schools mid-year. Why should I have to do this? It doesn't make sense, especially since it is not a very good way to use your time. There is a good chance that they're learning different things than you already were in your grade this year, like math topics.

Now that I go to public middle school, I only have school four days a week because every Wednesday is a day off! Even during the two days I am in the building, an hour of that is study hall. I really miss going to St. Jude School because I learned a lot more there, and I miss seeing my friends. I am afraid I will be behind next year when I go back, and I will have to do makeup math over the summer to catch up with my class.

I personally think that the EdChoice scholarship should be available to anyone that applies for it and change it so that kids who already go to private school and don't have enough money for tuition can also apply for this. Thank you.