

Frequently Asked Questions

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE



How are scholarships funded?

All educational options in Ohio are funded separately. Scholarships are funded using foundation aid on the state budget using a portion of the GRF. The General Revenue Fund money comes from Sales & Use Tax, Personal Income Tax, Other State Receipts, and Federal Grants. The budget will continue to fund all state scholarships using foundation aid. Foundation aid also funds payments to school districts, community schools and STEM Schools. Each EdChoice scholarship awarded reduces the foundation aid by \$6,640 per student per year resulting in net savings for taxpayers.

Are schools that accept scholarship students accountable?

For a private school to accept the scholarship from a parent, they must meet certain criteria including giving assessment tests to scholarship recipients, submitting monthly attendance to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, and the school must hold a valid charter issued by the State Board of Education.

Is funding only available for one year?

Universal School Choice was passed in July 2023 as a part of HB33, Ohio's biennial budget. While the funding parameters are part of the two-year budget, universal school choice was passed into law for students in Ohio, just as the Cleveland Scholarship (1995), Autism Scholarship (2003), EdChoice (2005), Jon Peterson (2011), and EdChoice Expansion (2013) we all passed into law for Ohio students. That does not mean we should stop advocating for it.

Does funding for scholarships come from public school budgets?

No. All educational options are funded separately in Ohio. Traditional public-school funding was transformed in 2021 with the Fair Funding Act. The state continued that initiative in 2023 with continued implementation of those changes with minimum thresholds to ensure that public schools are supported.

Funding formulas incorporate numerous factors including funding for students who are attending those public schools. Public school districts will still retain all locally generated revenues (including approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of property taxes) regardless of the numbers of pupils who attend. It is only the state's share, which was just over 40% of the \$17,113.86 average revenues per public pupil in FY2023, that "funds students where they are educated rather than where they live." There are no penalties for students whose families choose to send their students to private or charter schools.



1335 Dublin Road, Suite 50-A
Columbus, Ohio 43215

1-800-576-6873

www.SCOhio.org

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TO HELP!**