

2020-2021 Criteria for EdChoice Designated Public Schools

Office of Nonpublic Educational Options

Each year, Ohio identifies public schools whose students are eligible to receive EdChoice scholarships to attend qualifying private schools. Each of these public schools is designated an EdChoice school. An EdChoice scholarship pays or partially pays the tuition for a child's private school attendance.

The Ohio General Assembly directed the Ohio Department of Education to transition to new state tests in mathematics and English language arts in the 2015-2016 school year. As part of the transition, the legislature created provisions that gave schools "Safe Harbor" from being named EdChoice schools. Under these provisions, the Department will refrain from using state test results from school years 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to add new public schools to Ohio's EdChoice schools list. The Department will use data from the [2013-2014](#), [2017-2018](#) and [2018-2019](#) Ohio School Report Cards to designate EdChoice public schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Each EdChoice-designated school met one or more of the following conditions.

1) Performance

If any of the following is true for two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019: The school received a Performance Index grade of D or F and a Value-Added (overall) grade of D or F on the 2014 Report Card or, the school received an overall grade of D or F or a Value-Added (overall) grade of F on the 2018 or 2019 report card.

2) Graduation

The school serves grades 9-12 and received a Graduation Rate grade of D or F on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019.

3) Lowest 10 percent

The school ranked in the lowest 10 percent of public school buildings on the Performance Index on the Ohio School Report Cards for any two Performance Index rankings from 2014, 2018 and 2019; the school did not receive an overall grade of A or B on the 2019 report card. Lowest 10 percent of Performance Index ranking uses the same accountability rules that create the official Performance Index ranking. Cleveland Municipal schools, community schools and STEM schools not operated by a district are removed before calculating the 10th percentile.

4) Literacy

The school received a grade of D or F for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019.

5) District Performance *

The school's public district has an open enrollment policy under which no student in the grade level is assigned to a specific school building; and the district received a Performance Index grade of D or F and overall Value-Added grade of D or F on the 2013 and 2014 report card; and the district received an overall grade of D or F or Value-Added (overall) grade of F on the 2018 or 2019 report card.

* No districts would be eligible under this criterion.

6) Academic Distress

The school's public district has an academic distress commission.

Student Eligibility

The following students are eligible to apply for EdChoice scholarships:

- Those enrolled in and attending EdChoice public school buildings in their districts of residence;
- Students enrolled in and attending community schools who would otherwise be assigned to EdChoice public school buildings;
- Students enrolled in and attending public schools in their districts of residence or in community schools who would be assigned to EdChoice public school buildings for the upcoming school year;
- Students enrolling in Ohio schools for the first time who would be assigned to EdChoice public school buildings;
- Students eligible to enter kindergarten in fall 2020 (and who will be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2021) who would be assigned to EdChoice school buildings; or
- Students who completed grades 8, 9, 10 or 11 and are enrolled in or would be assigned to an EdChoice designated building that serves any of grades nine through twelve. This eligibility criteria covers all public school; chartered nonpublic (private) school; non-chartered, non-tax school; and homeschool students.

Closing Schools: Students currently enrolled in and attending public school buildings that are closing at the end of the 2019-2020 school year still are eligible for EdChoice scholarships. Incoming kindergarten students and students enrolling in Ohio schools for the first time cannot be assigned to buildings that will be closed during the 2020-2021 school year. These students, therefore, are not eligible for EdChoice Scholarships.

Low-Income Eligibility: Students who do not meet the preceding eligibility criteria and will be entering any grade from kindergarten through 12 in fall 2020 still may be eligible for EdChoice scholarships if they meet low-income requirements.

Note: Families who live in the Cleveland Municipal School District are not eligible to apply for EdChoice scholarships.