

# OHIO

Overall Market Rating: **Growth Ready**

Ohio moved to universal eligibility for its primary private school scholarship programs in 2023-24, making the state growth-ready for private schools in a variety of contexts. Households with income below 450% of the federal poverty level are eligible for full-value EdChoice scholarships; those with higher incomes receive smaller amounts on a sliding scale. The maximum scholarships are \$6,166 for K-8 students and \$8,408 for high school students. Private schools also receive “auxiliary” funds to cover student-facing academic materials that can run as high as \$1,400 per student. Special education students attending private schools can receive even higher scholarship amounts, depending on specific needs.

Ohio has unique eligibility and regulatory conditions. Specifically, there is a provision that private schools must obtain a charter from the state Department of Education (a different process than becoming a public charter or community school) and employ only licensed teachers to receive EdChoice funds. Both requirements are navigable, but they make lead time an important factor for aspiring new schools seeking voucher dollars. The state education department must conduct an on-site visit after the school year starts before it can approve a school for EdChoice. As a result, schools are rarely approved before October and sometimes later.

Ohio also features two small tax-credit scholarship programs. Little data has been gathered and published on the programs in recent years, but in 2021 and 2022 taxpayers claimed about \$12M in tax credits, implying that private school students collectively could draw down about \$6M per year in scholarship funding. Finally, parents in Ohio can claim a tax deduction of up to \$250 for home education expenses.

While Ohio’s governor and legislature remain strong supporters of EdChoice, a coalition of 300 school districts sued in 2022, claiming the program was unconstitutional. In June 2025, a Franklin County judge agreed but stayed the ruling so the program could continue pending appeal. The state filed the appeal, and with a Republican-dominated Supreme Court the ruling is likely to be overturned.

+ Best ✓ Fair — Inadequate	Program(s) Prioritize Low- Income HHs	Funding Is Adequate to Meet Demand (High or No Cap)	New Schools Eligible in First Year	Per-Pupil Amount Is Adequate	The Application Process Is Family-Friendly	There Is a Supportive Ecosystem for Private Schools
<b>OHIO</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓

## K-12 Enrollment

OHIO 2024-25			
Total PK-12	Public District	Public Charter	Private
1,765,595	1,465,041 (83%)	119,310 (7%)	181,244 (10%)

## Choice Program Details

### EdChoice

Eligibility	Amounts	Participation (2025-26)	Other
Universal (450% of federal poverty level for full-value scholarship, with a sliding scale for pupils from higher-income HHs)	Full value: \$6,166 (K-8) \$8,408 (HS) Partial value: Declines on a sliding scale to about \$2,000 minimum as HH income rises	Over 150,000 pupils This includes the original EdChoice program (with specific eligibility criteria), the EdChoice expansion (universal eligibility) and the Cleveland program (all of which operate similarly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating schools must administer an approved, nationally normed assessment</li> <li>Teachers must be licensed or have a non-tax teaching certificate along with a bachelor's degree</li> <li>Schools are eligible to receive auxiliary funds to cover certain administrative expenses, up to around \$1,400 per pupil annually</li> </ul>

### Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships

Eligibility	Amounts	Participation (2024-25)	Other
Autism Scholarship: IEP with autism diagnosis JPSN Scholarship: IEP from a public school district	Range from \$9,500 to over \$30,000 and average \$12,000 (JPSN) and \$29,000 (Autism)	~15,000 pupils combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no cap on the Autism program</li> <li>JPSN is capped at 5% of K-12 pupils in the state</li> <li>Recipients cannot also receive EdChoice</li> </ul>

Sources: Sources: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, [EdChoice.org](https://edchoice.org)