

**HOUSE BILL 136:
PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL CHOICE EXPANSION**



Parental Choice and Taxpayer Savings (PACT) Scholarship

Goal: To extend private school choice to all middle- and lower- income families

Expanded student eligibility:

- School-age (K-12) students at or below 250% of the income cut-off for receiving reduced price lunch without geographic restrictions
- Includes a phase-in of eligibility for students currently attending private school
- Combines the EdChoice and Cleveland voucher program which emphasized system “failures” rather than needs of individual students

Scholarship amounts and tuition:

- Scholarship amounts between 40-80% of state per pupil funding (\$2,313 - \$4,626) would be awarded on a sliding scale, depending on family income.

Family income:	Family income example:	Max scholarship/% state share:
At or below 150% of RPL	\$61,189 for a family of 4	\$4,626 (80%)
151% - 175% of RPL	\$71,387 for a family of 4	\$4,048 (70%)
176% - 200% of RPL	\$81,585 for a family of 4	\$3,470 (60%)
201% - 225% of RPL	\$91,783 for a family of 4	\$2,892 (50%)
226% - 250% of RPL	\$101,981 for a family of 4	\$2,313 (40%)

Note: RPL stands for Reduced Price Lunch income guidelines

- Private schools are required to apply the same tuition rate for scholarship students as other students (i.e. sibling discounts) but are not required to award school-based scholarships first
- Private schools are not required to accept the voucher amount as full payment, but they may if they choose

Individual education savings account:

- If the school’s annual tuition is less than the student’s maximum scholarship amount, the savings are rolled into an education savings account for the individual child up to age 25.
- Parents may use the education savings account to pay for:
 - o Private school tuition and fees (e.g. if high school costs are higher than the maximum scholarship amount)
 - o School or college textbooks
 - o Tuition and fees at an Ohio college, university, or post high school institution

Private school accountability:

- Participating private schools must be either chartered by the state or have a letter of approval from the state and show financial assurances
- All students must take the same state assessments that are required of public school students
- The Ohio Department of Education is required to collect and report all the assessment data in a manner that allows for value-added analysis and is open to third-party research analysis

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A Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

Goal: To build on the success of the Autism Scholarship by providing expanded school choice to students with any type of special education needs.

Student eligibility:

- Any K-12 student with an individual education program (IEP) would be eligible.
- Families could use the scholarship to pay tuition at private education service providers or at public school districts outside of the family's assignment
- The number of scholarships available will be limited to 5% of the total number of students with an IEP in the previous year.
- The number of scholarships is limited to 5% of the total number of students with an IEP in the previous year (est. 13,000 scholarships next year)
- Students may not receive another state voucher at the same time

Scholarship amounts and tuition:

- Funding for students with disabilities is allocated in 6 levels and is based on the student's disability and associated educational needs.
- Maximum scholarship award amounts would all be 80% of the category funding available to public school students and would range from \$6,000 for category 1 to \$26,000 for category 6.
- Scholarship shall be used to pay all or part of fees of special education program to implement the child's IEP and other services agreed to by the provider and applicant that are associated with educating the child.

Special education category	Max Scholarship
1 (Speech and language disability)	\$5,953
2 (Learning disability, developmental disability, minor health impairment)	\$6,319
3 (Hearing or vision impairments, severe behavior disability)	\$12,741
4 (orthopedic or other major health impairments)	\$15,470
5 (Multi-disability)	\$18,901
6 (Autism, traumatic brain injury, both hearing and vision impairments)	\$26,336

Private education provider requirements:

Private schools and private providers that want to participate must

- Be approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- Comply with all applicable health, safety, and documentation standards
- Maintain a record of the implementation of the IEP, including an evaluation of student progress

www.schoio.org/specialeducation