



SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE CHARTERED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN



“Parents – the first and most important educators—have a fundamental right to choose the education best suited to the needs of their children, including public, private, and religious schools. Government, through such means as tax credits and publicly funded scholarships, should help provide resources for parents, especially those of modest means, to exercise this basic right without discrimination.”

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB, 2007

Catholic Schools- Chartered Nonpublic Schools

Currently more than 195,000 K-12 students attend Ohio’s 860 chartered nonpublic schools. Over 142,000 of these students are enrolled in Catholic schools throughout Ohio (72% of all pupils attending chartered nonpublic schools). In addition, 8,000 young children attend a Catholic preschool.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio advocates that the state fund programs for students attending chartered nonpublic schools proportionately to monies supporting basic aid to public school students.

Auxiliary Services (GRF 511) and Administrative Cost Reimbursement (GRF 532)

All students attending Catholic and other chartered nonpublic schools rely on the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program and the Auxiliary Services Program for valuable assistance.

Auxiliary Services (GRF 511)

Funding is provided by the state to public school districts that have chartered nonpublic schools within their boundaries. Textbooks, materials, and equipment provided for the benefit of nonpublic school students remain

the property of the local school district. Personnel hired to staff services for pupils in chartered nonpublic schools are employees of the local public school district. The following services and programs may be provided at the request of the principal of the chartered nonpublic school:

- ◆ Textbooks
- ◆ Computer hardware & equipment
- ◆ Nursing services
- ◆ Psychological services
- ◆ Social work services
- ◆ Speech and hearing services
- ◆ Guidance and counseling services
- ◆ Remedial services and services for gifted pupils
- ◆ Services for handicapped students
- ◆ Standardized testing and scoring services
- ◆ Computer software, prerecorded video laser discs, compact discs, instructional materials, and library materials.

Administrative Cost Reimbursement (GRF 532)

This program reimburses chartered nonpublic schools for administrative and clerical costs incurred in meeting governmental requirements that are not an integral part of the instructional process, but are required by state law or rule or by a local school district.

Educational Choice Scholarship Program

This program was established by the Ohio General Assembly to provide scholarships for a maximum of 14,000 students who attend and/or are assigned to a public school building that has been rated in Academic Emergency or Academic Watch for two of the past three years. Students may use the scholarships to attend approved chartered nonpublic schools.

A student who receives an EdChoice Scholarship can renew it through the 12th grade even if the student's home [public] school moves out of Academic Emergency or Academic Watch.

Of the 9,500 students who participated in the EdChoice Scholarship Program in 2008/2009, 6,342 of them (66 percent) were enrolled in 141 Catholic schools.

Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program

This program expands educational opportunities to low-income students residing in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of CSTP in 2002.

A student participating in the scholarship component of this program may attend a public school in a participating school district or a chartered nonpublic school located within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. However, no public school district ever has opted to participate in the program.

During 2008/2009, thirty-three Catholic schools served 5,142 students in the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring

Program. The maximum scholarship is \$3,450 for students in grades K-12 (an amount set in FY07). Depending on family income, a student on a CSTP scholarship receives either 75 percent or 90 percent of the scholarship amount, not to exceed the school's tuition.

Students who are eligible for the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program are not eligible for EdChoice scholarships.

Autism Scholarship Program

The Autism Scholarship Program, in its third year, provides a scholarship not to exceed \$20,000 to the parents of a qualified student with autism. The program allows parents to send their child to a specialized educational program, other than the one operated by their child's school district, in order to receive the services outlined in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Several Catholic schools participated in the Autism Scholarship Program in 2008/2009.



The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio. This is accomplished by representing the Church's positions before the Ohio General Assembly, various state departments, agencies and other organizations.