



CLEVELAND
UNIVERSITY **HEIGHTS**
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EdChoice Scholarship Update
October 20, 2020



Topics to be covered

- I. Edchoice Scholarship History and Updates – **Sharon Rohler, EMIS Administrator**

- II. Edchoice Budget Impacts – **Scott Gainer, Treasurer**

- III. Update on District Needs and Advocacy – **Elizabeth Kirby, Superintendent**



Cleveland Heights-University Heights community context

The diversity of our district and community is one of its greatest strengths. As we discuss the impact of Edchoice, our goal is to find a solution to how Edchoice is funded so that one part of the community is not harmed at the expense of the other part of the community. As currently constructed, Edchoice is not sustainable.



EdChoice Description

According to the ODE website:

The Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides students from designated public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The program also provides low income students who are entering kindergarten through 12th grade scholarship opportunities. The program provides up to 60,000 EdChoice scholarships to eligible students.

- EdChoice (traditional)- Established in 2005 for underperforming schools
 - Funding is supported by resident school district

- EdChoice Expansion- Established in 2013 for low income students
 - Funding is supported by state funds



EdChoice Scholarship Process

Report Card Release Date

- Per ORC, ODE must release data from the most recent school year prior to September 15th in a given year. The majority of the report card data is based on the most recent year's test results. Graduation rate, Prepared for Success, and K3 Literacy measures incorporate prior year data.

Data Years Used for Designations

- Buildings who meet specified criteria based on data from 2 of the 3 most recent report cards are eligible for EdChoice. Designation criteria has changed over time. In addition, due to two safe harbor periods, the criteria is not always based on the 3 prior years.

Designated Buildings

- ODE uses this data to create a designation list. The list is produced approximately 2 or 3 months after the report card release. Students who live in the address area for the designated building are eligible to apply. Student eligibility rules have changed through the years.



Application Period

- In the spring following the release of the designation list, eligible students can apply for the scholarship via an application to ODE. A second application window also opens in July. These applications are for the following school year after the application period.



Fiscal Year Impact

- Districts will see scholarship deductions in the fiscal year when the student begins attending the nonpublic school. Typically, this is one calendar year after the release of the report card data.

Safe Harbor: Test Change

Report Card data from years 2015, 2016, 2017 were not used for EdChoice eligibility determinations due to the implementation of new state tests.

Safe Harbor: Covid 19

HB197 enacted emergency legislation to eliminate testing in 2020 and freeze designations to buildings who were eligible as of the 19-20 school year.

For more information: **Ohio** | Department of Education

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/EdChoice-Scholarship-Program>



Recent Legislative Changes

HB166 Biennial budget- July 2019

- Application window change
- Additional HS students eligible based on address

HB197 Covid relief bill- March 2020

- Freeze designation lists
- New eligibility for siblings



HB166 Changes–July 2019

Application window change

- In the past, application window was in spring from Feb to April and second window in July.
- New application period is a rolling window. New applications can now be submitted at any time during the school year.

Additional HS students eligible based on address

- Now permits students in grades 8-11 who live in the district to be eligible for high school scholarships.
- Includes all students regardless of where they attended school, including nonpublic schools or those who recently moved into the district.



HB197 Changes–March 2020

Freeze designation lists

- Prior to March 2020, there were discussions over eligibility criteria now that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the districts in the state (439 districts out of 610) would have a designated building as of 20–21 school year.
- Temporary solution was to freeze designation lists to those who were eligible during the 19–20 application year.
- Beneficial to the 281 districts/726 schools who would have been newly designated
- Detrimental to those already on the list
 - Additional student applications
 - Lost opportunity to be removed from the list



HB197 Changes–March 2020

New eligibility for siblings

- Eligibility criteria changed to allow new applications for students if all criteria listed below apply:
 - The student had a sibling who received an EdChoice scholarship in 19–20
 - Was or would be enrolled in eligible building
 - Was enrolled in public or nonpublic building or home schooled during 19–20



Impact for Cleveland Heights - University Heights District and Schools



EdChoice Application Totals 20-21

2020-21 EdChoice Scholarship Applications by Grade

Grade	Application Type		Total
	New	Renewal	
KG	195		195
01	6	190	196
02	10	181	191
03	8	165	173
04	10	134	144
05	9	134	143
06	45	34	79
07	33	33	66
08	66	32	98
09	136	22	158
10	10	111	121
11	12	105	117
12	12	99	111
Total	552	1240	1792

20-21 Application Totals as of 10/1/20 include:

- 552 New applications
- 1240 Renewals

Majority of new applications are for Kindergarten and Grade 9



EdChoice Application Totals 20-21

2020-21 Kindergarten EdChoice Scholarship Students by Provider

Provider- Grade KDG	Application Type	
	New	Total
Archbishop Lyke-St Henry Campus	2	2
Cleveland Montessori	5	5
Communion of Saints School	9	9
Cornerstone Christian Academy	2	2
Corpus Christi Academy	1	1
Fuchs Mizrahi Of Cleveland	6	6
Hebrew Academy Of Cleveland	2	2
Jacob Sapirstein Campus - Hebrew Academy of Cleveland	94	94
Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School	2	2
Notre Dame School	2	2
Ratner School, The	1	1
St Agatha-St Aloysius	1	1
St Dominic	2	2
Yeshiva Derech Hatorah	66	66
Total	195	195



EdChoice Application Totals 20-21

2020-21 Grade 9 EdChoice Scholarship Students by Provider

Provider- Grade 9	Application Type		
	New	Renewal	Total
Beatrice J. Stone Yavne	17	4	21
Beaumont School	24	4	28
Benedictine	6	1	7
Chaviva High School	7	1	8
Fuchs Mizrahi Of Cleveland	7		7
Jacob Sapirstein Campus - Hebrew Academy of Cleveland	10	3	13
Lutheran East	12		12
Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	2		2
Saint Martin de Porres High School	1		1
St Ignatius High School	15		15
St Joseph Academy	1		1
Telshe	17	5	22
Trinity	1	1	2
Villa Angela-St Joseph		3	3
Yeshiva Derech Hatorah	16		16
Total	136	22	158



EdChoice Application Totals 20-21

2020-21 EdChoice Scholarship Students by Provider (Top 10)

Provider	Application Type		
	New	Renewal	Total
Beatrice J. Stone Yavne	52	89	141
Beaumont School	27	46	73
Communion of Saints School	12	50	62
Fuchs Mizrahi Of Cleveland	27	40	67
Hebrew Academy Of Cleveland	54	404	458
Jacob Sapirstein Campus - Hebrew Academy of Cleveland	128	44	172
Lutheran East	17	28	45
St Ignatius High School	27	26	53
Telshe	17	32	49
Yeshiva Derech Hatorah	142	366	508

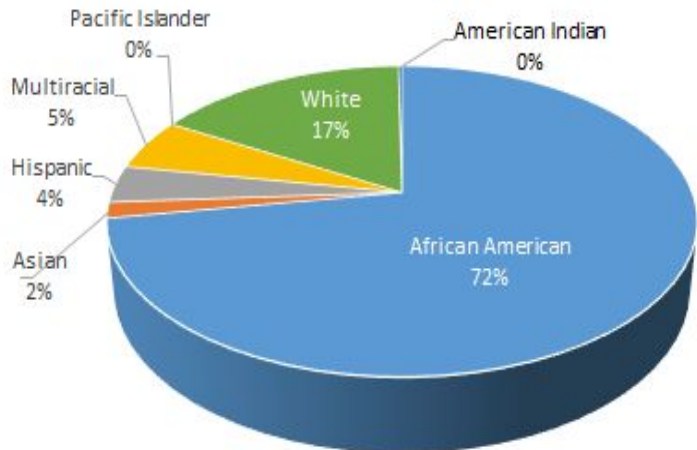
[Click here for full list of all scholarship providers for 20-21](#)



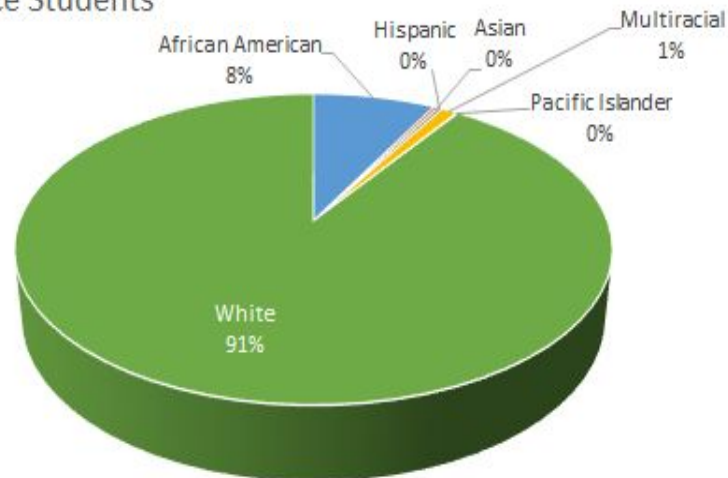
2020-21 Number of Students by Race

Race	CHUH District	EdChoice
African American	3479	141
American Indian	11	0
Asian	80	5
Hispanic	186	6
Multiracial	260	18
Pacific Islander	1	2
White	793	1620
Total	4810	1792

CHUH District Students



EdChoice Students



■ African American
 ■ Asian
 ■ Hispanic
 ■ Multiracial
 ■ Pacific Islander
 ■ White
 ■ American Indian



EdChoice Application Totals 20-21

2020-21 NEW EdChoice Scholarship Students by Eligibility Reason

Program Eligibility Reason	Grade													Total
	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	
Incoming Kindergartner	192													192
Gr 9-12 CHUH Resident eligible based on HB166 *										117	7	12	12	148
Eligible due to sibling who received scholarship	1			2	3	3	41	31	60	1				142
First time enrolled in an Ohio school	2	6	10	5	7	6	4	2	6	3	2			53
Attended CHUH or Community School during 19-20				1						15	1			17
Total	195	6	10	8	10	9	45	33	66	136	10	12	12	552

- ★ HB 166 changed eligibility to allow any student who lives within the CHUH district in grades 8-11 to apply for a scholarship for high school regardless of where they attended school in the prior year.



EdChoice Application Totals

Impact of new applications eligible in 19-20 and 20-21 due to legislative changes

- Application window change - 20-21 Additional scholarships: **61** (As of 10/1/2020)
- New eligibility for HS based on address
 - 19-20 New scholarships: **318**
 - 20-21 Renewals from prior year: **240**
 - 20-21 New scholarships: **148**
- New eligibility for siblings - 20-21: **142**

Scholarship cost due to legislative changes:

Year	Legislative Change Cost	Total Deduction
19-20	\$1,908,000	\$7,074,113
20-21	\$3,288,150	\$9,017,250



20-21 EdChoice Application Totals - Prior CH-UH History

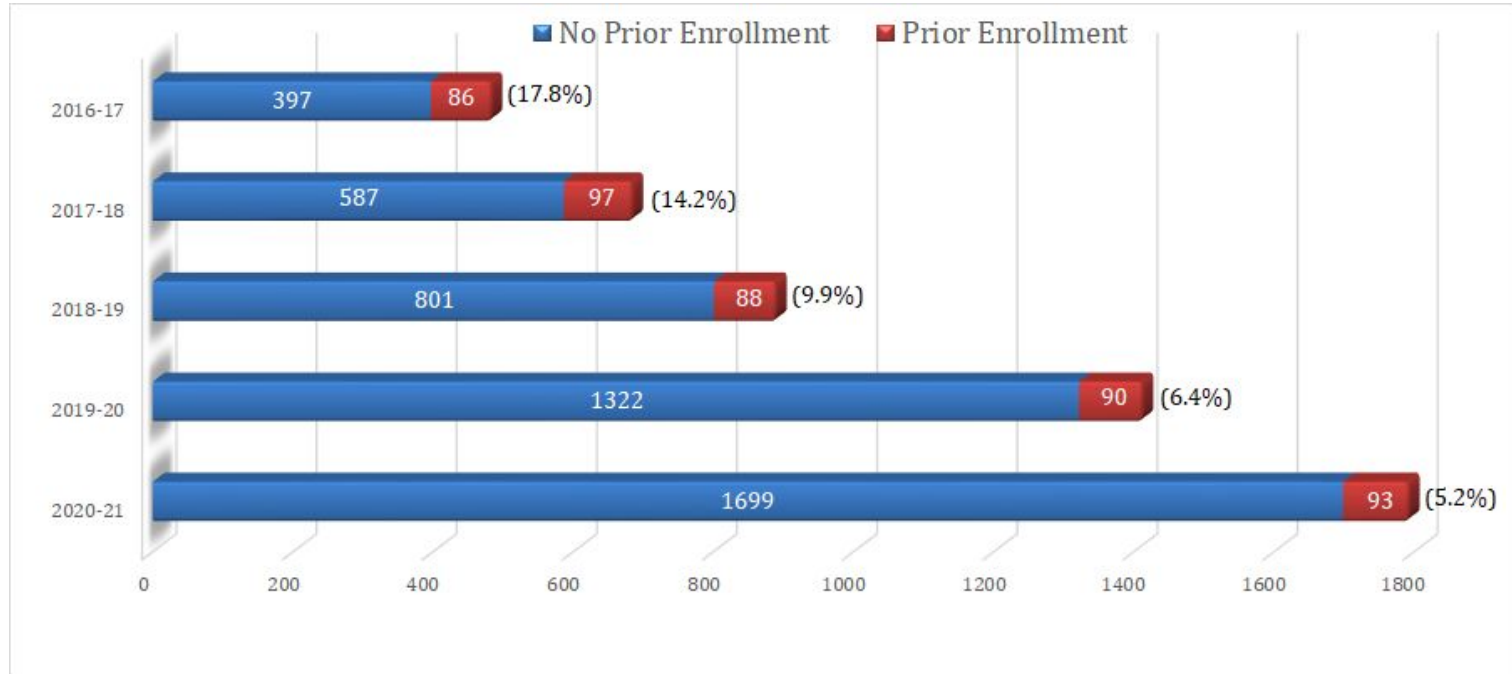
Any student, regardless of withdrawal date or length of enrollment, who has been enrolled in any CH-UH building in grades K-12 before their EdChoice application date is considered to have a prior enrollment in CHUH.

Based on scholarships for the 20-21 year:

- Students with prior enrollment in CH-UH: **93 (5.2%)**
- Students with no prior enrollment in CH-UH: **1699 (94.8%)**
- Total scholarships - New and Renewals (as of 10/1/20): **1792**



5 Year History of EdChoice Applications with Prior CHUH Enrollment



Totals include all applications per year, both new and renewals.

Percentage shown represents the percent of students with prior enrollment in CHUH buildings in grades K-12.



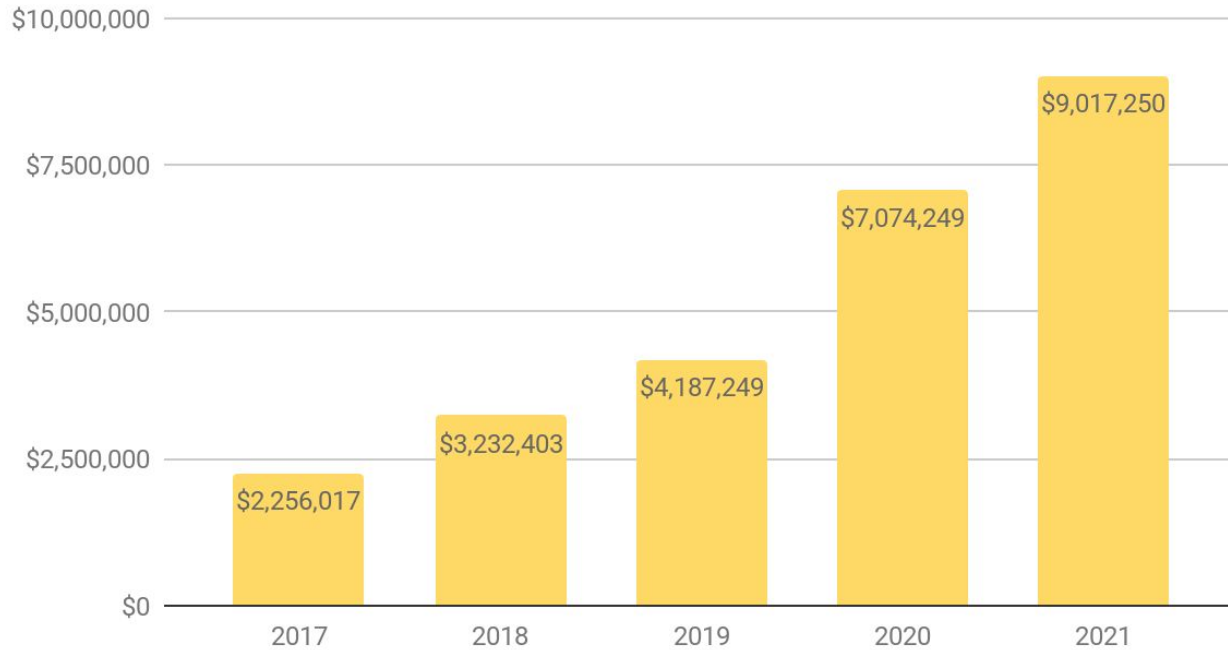
Financial Impact 20-21

- ❖ \$4,650 deducted per voucher K-8
- ❖ \$6,000 deducted per voucher 9-12
- ❖ 20-21 total state deduction \$9,017,250
- ❖ 552 new applications for 20-21, \$2,566,800 which is total loss with zero additional state revenue due to frozen biennial budget 19/20 and 20/21



Financial Impact

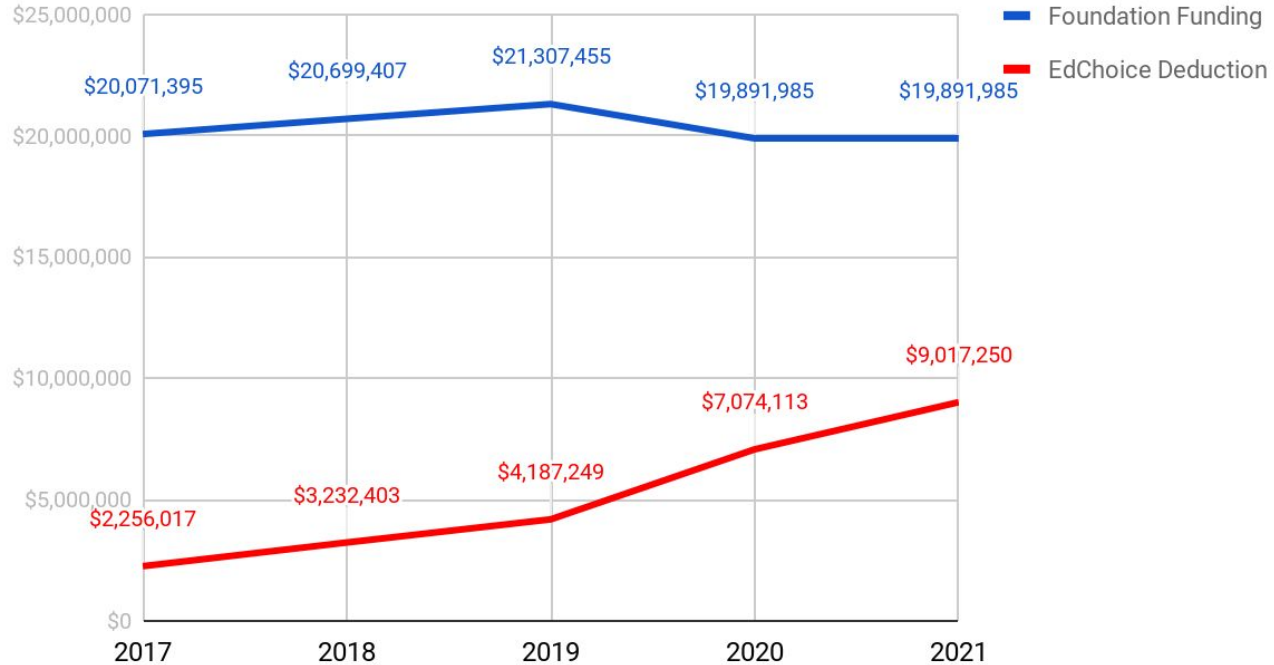
EdChoice Voucher Growth





Financial Impact

State Funding vs State EdChoice Voucher Deduction





Financial Impact

“Important Points to Highlight for Your Community and Legislators”

SBO Quarterly, September 2020

Ohio Association of School Business Officials

- Local property tax dollars are being used to fund the performance-based EdChoice scholarships. While the state may provide some portion of the cost of the voucher, the local school district must make up the difference with the proceeds from local property tax levies. Therefore, in districts that receive very little in state aid to pay for the vouchers, local property taxes cover the full cost.
- A growing number of students who attend private schools, and have never been enrolled in a public school, are qualifying for performance-based EdChoice scholarships paid for by the local school district.
- Once a student obtains a performance-based EdChoice scholarship, that student continues to receive a voucher throughout his or her education (K-12th grade), even if the district’s report card improves.
- According to data collected by the Ohio Department of Education, and also a study done by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, there is no evidence that students taking a voucher do better than the students in public schools they leave.
- Private schools are able to select which students they accept. Public schools must accept all students.
- Private schools are not required to administer the same state tests as their public school counterparts, nor are they required to undergo fiscal audits, even though they accept public funds.



Financial Impact

“Cleveland Heights isn’t losing any students. They are just losing money.”

Dr. Howard Fleeter, Economist and School Finance Consultant
IndeOnline, December 2019



Advocacy Efforts

<u>Legislative Efforts</u>	House bill 385, the Fair School Funding plan SB305 and Sub 305
Testimony in Columbus	Edchoice Expansion in the Spring Testing tied to report cards in the fall
Engagement with State Legislators	Ongoing conversations with State Senator Sandra Williams and Representative Boyd
Pursuing a Legal Path	CH-UH BOE made an official resolution to pursue a legal path in spring of 2020
First Ring Advocacy	CH-UH in Superintendent Advisory Group for First Ring
Community Advocacy	Continue to educate community on deduction ask to the State



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Thank You!



Questions? Comments?