



2024-2025 EdChoice Scholarship *Renewal* Information

St. Gertrude School participates in the Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program for Ohio residents. EdChoice provides state-funded scholarships to families who meet the eligibility requirements (**Traditional EdChoice**) or provides scholarships based on household income level (**EdChoice Expansion**). In short, all Ohio students are eligible for an EdChoice scholarship based on either specific eligibility requirements or family income-level.

The below information provides guidance for families **renewing** their child's EdChoice scholarship for the **2024-2025 School Year**.

EdChoice Renewals – Checklist

All students who received an EdChoice Scholarship during the 2023-2024 School Year are eligible to renew the scholarship for the 2024-2025 School Year so long as they meet the following criteria:

1. Take all required assessments during the 2023-2024 School Year (Acadience for K-1st; MAP Growth Math/Reading 2nd-8th);
 2. Does not have more than 20 unexcused absences for the 2023-2024 School Year; and
 3. Remains a resident of Ohio.
 4. Does not move to another public school district (*EdChoice Traditional ONLY*)
- STEP 1:** Complete the [2024-2025 Renewal Form](#) for each child for which you are renewing.
 - STEP 2:** Provide [Acceptable Proof of Residency](#) with your 2024-2025 Request Form. **Only one proof of residency document needed per household.**
 - STEP 3:** Complete the [Signature Authorization Form](#), which authorizes SGS to process regular EdChoice tuition payments from the Ohio Department of Education without parent/guardian signature. Only one form is needed per household.
 - STEP 4:** Turn your signed and completed forms in to the school office or email tjohnson@stgertrudesch.org.

2024-2025 EdChoice Application <i>Renewal</i> : Timeline*	
February 1, 2024	Application Period for 2024-2025 Opens
February 7, 2024	St. Gertrude School will begin accepting renewal applications
April 15, 2024	Final <u>deadline</u> to submit <i>renewal</i> applications to St. Gertrude School for 2024-2025.
July 15, 2024	Tuition payment plan begins

*Renewal applications may not be awarded until July 2024.

Resources & Additional Information

[EdChoice Scholarship **Traditional** website](#) (includes How to Apply and Resources page)

[EdChoice Scholarship **Expansion** website](#) (includes How to Apply and Resources page)

[FY25 EdChoice Request Form](#) (application for **NEW** applicants for the 2024-2025 School Year)

[FY25 EdChoice Renewal Form](#) (application for **RENEWAL** applicants for the 2024-2025 School Year)

[Acceptable Proof of Residency](#) (required for all applicants)

[St. Gertrude School Signature Authorization Form](#) (required for all applicants)

[2024-2025 Income Verification Form](#)

[FY25 EdChoice Traditional Fact Sheet](#) (2024-2025 School Year) – eligibility based.

[FY25 EdChoice Expansion Fact Sheet](#) (2024-2025 School Year) – income based.

Need Assistance?

Contact Mr. Travis Johnson, Assistant Principal

Email: tjohnson@stgertrudesch.org

Call: (513) 561-8020 x. 1103

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the scholarship?

All students living in Ohio enrolled in a participating private school (e.g., St. Gertrude School) are eligible for the EdChoice Expansion scholarship. Some families may be eligible for EdChoice Traditional Scholarship. Eligibility for the Traditional program is based on a child's assigned district school along with other, less common situations (e.g., foster children, guardianship, legal custodian, kinship care placements, etc.).

How do I apply for the EdChoice Scholarship for my child?

The family must submit an EdChoice request form to the school, along with supporting documentation. See steps above.

Does my child have to be enrolled before I can apply for the scholarship?

Yes. St. Gertrude School will only process EdChoice applications for students that are currently enrolled in the 2023-2024 School Year or for those that have completed enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Do I have to renew the EdChoice Scholarship every year?

Yes. The scholarship must be renewed annually. See steps 1-4 above under *Renewals – Checklist*. This must be done for each child that you would like to renew.

When should I submit an EdChoice request/renewal form?

Applications may be submitted to SGS starting on February 7, 2024. *NOTE: Any application processed by SGS after October 14, 2024 will be awarded at a prorated amount based on how much of the school year remains after the date of the student's enrollment. SGS reserves the right to establish a cutoff date for application submission prior to October 14, 2024.*

What happens after I submit my forms?

The school will notify you via email that we have received your application(s). We will then submit your application forms through the EdChoice application portal. Each application must go through the review process prior to the scholarship being awarded. The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce does not provide us with any specific period for application reviews. For this reason, we recommend that families submit their EdChoice applications to the school office for the 2024-2025 School Year sooner than later. We have been told that applications are reviewed on a first come first served basis.

When will the scholarship be awarded?

We cannot say for sure. Renewals should anticipate early to mid-Summer 2024. New applicants will likely see their scholarship awarded sooner. All **renewals** have to go through additional verifications by the State of Ohio. These verifications are related to 2023-2024 achievement testing requirements. This is normal and there is nothing that parents need to do other than to avoid the impulse to contact the school office for status updates every other week for the next four months. Our recommendation for both new and renewal applicants is to submit your application to the school office sooner than later. The same goes for completing the income verification, if applicable. Don't wait.

Do I have to complete the income verification process?

All first-time EdChoice Expansion applicants must have their income verified by the Office of Nonpublic Educational Options. Scholarships for EdChoice Expansion are awarded based on the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of a family's

household. If a family's household income is at or below 450% of the Federal Poverty Level, they will be awarded the maximum scholarship amount. If a family's household is at or above 451% of the Federal Poverty Level, the student's scholarship is reduced. [Here](#) is the Federal Poverty Level chart with gross annual amounts. **Renewing families**, including current families that will have a child at St. Gertrude for the first time in 2024-2025, will not need to complete the income verification process. Renewing families have the option to complete income verification if they would like to have their household income recalculated for their scholarship award amount.

What if I am eligible for both the Traditional and Expansion Scholarship Programs?

It is recommended that families eligible for both programs apply for the Traditional EdChoice Scholarship. Families eligible for the traditional scholarship receive the full scholarship amount regardless of the FPL. Families may apply for either program but not both.

How will the state verify my income?

Using the Income Verification Portal, 2023 Tax Returns is the surest and quickest way of having your income verified. Scholarships for EdChoice Expansion are awarded based on the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of a family's household. See [this](#) document for helpful tips on the income verification process. If you would prefer to mail in your income verification, use [this form](#), which also includes additional ways for income to be verified. Please **DO NOT** send income documents to the school. This will delay your application.

Do I have to have a tuition payment plan if I'm applying for an EdChoice Scholarship?

Yes. Through FACTS, all families must have a payment plan option along with a valid payment method. Families have until July 15, 2024, to ensure that both a payment plan and payment method have been established in FACTS. 2024-2025 payment plans will begin July 15, 2024. If receipt of the EdChoice Scholarship occurs after July 15, 2024 then families may be eligible for reimbursement of any tuition paid since July 15, 2024.

Who receives scholarship payments?

Payments will be mailed directly to the school from the state Scholarship Office.

I have friends and relatives that want to apply for the EdChoice Scholarship Program, however, they are not yet enrolled at St. Gertrude School. Can they apply for the scholarship?

No. St. Gertrude School will only submit request forms for **accepted and enrolled students**. Interested families are invited [to apply or request more information](#) about SGS.

Will there be any additional requirements for my child now that he receives an EdChoice Scholarship?

There is an attendance requirement: students may not accumulate 20 or more *unexcused absences* in a year. In addition, students also have to complete certain assessments; these, however, already align to the current Archdiocesan assessment requirements.

This seems too good to be true. What's the catch?

There is no catch. The State of Ohio has been slowly moving in this direction since the inception of the EdChoice Scholarship Program. **We should all be grateful that we live in Ohio and that the current legislature and state officials had the will to move forward with these changes, that they recognize the value of Catholic education and its contribution to the common good, and above all, that they honor and uphold parental rights to choose a Catholic education for their children.**

Have further questions?

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