Education in Ohio

SCHOOL CHOICE

Myth vs. Fact

Myth	Fact
Myth #1: School choice takes money away from public schools.	**Fact:** Education funding follows students because funding is intended to educate children, not institutions. Public schools continue to receive significant state and local funding, even when families choose another option. Many districts also retain portions of funding for students they no longer educate.
Myth #2: School choice only benefits wealthy families.	**Fact:** School choice was created to expand opportunities for families who otherwise could not afford alternatives. Ohio's scholarship programs now make educational options available to families across a wide range of incomes.
Myth #3: Private schools can pick and choose whoever they want.	**Fact:** While private schools establish admissions policies, many accept students from diverse academic, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Ohio scholarship programs have opened doors for thousands of families who otherwise could not afford tuition.
Myth #4: School choice hurts public education.	**Fact:** Families have different educational needs. School choice expands opportunities without eliminating public education. Public schools remain an important educational option alongside charter schools, STEM schools, private schools, career centers, and home education.
Myth #5: Private schools are not accountable.	**Fact:** Scholarship-participating schools must comply with numerous Ohio requirements, including financial accountability, criminal background checks, health and safety requirements, testing requirements (or approved alternatives where applicable), reporting, and oversight by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.
Myth #6: School choice is only for religious schools.	**Fact:** School choice includes many educational options, including traditional public schools, open enrollment, magnet schools, career-technical schools, charter schools, STEM schools, nonpublic secular schools, faith-based schools, microschools, and home education.
Myth #7: School choice increases segregation.	**Fact:** Statistics clearly show that Ohio's scholarship programs have helped to increase diversity in private schools to be consistent with public schools. Many Ohio scholarship provider schools serve highly diverse student populations.