



December 10, 2019

Dear Speaker Householder and Senate President Obhof,

We are deeply concerned with the negative impact expanding the EdChoice voucher program in House Bill 166 (biennial operating budget), will have on public education in Ohio. The number of students eligible to receive vouchers will almost double next school year due to the changes, resulting in a significant financial impact on school districts across the state.

Expanding vouchers undermines the ability of public schools to provide educators and students with the resources they need to succeed. While the state budget expanded the number of EdChoice recipients, it froze funding levels for the 2020-2021 school year at the 2019-2020 levels—meaning greater losses as tens of millions more dollars will be siphoned away from public schools. The effect is compounded by the fact that districts not only lose their state aide but they also lose revenues locally supported by voters to support kids in their home public school. Some districts will lose as much as 66 percent of their state aide next school year, the total statewide reduction in state support only for public education is almost \$28 million in one year.

From school districts in Cuyahoga County such as **North Royalton, Beachwood, Rocky River** and **Cleveland Heights**, in Central Ohio's **Olentangy Local and Upper Arlington** schools down to Hamilton County in the **Cincinnati City** district, school districts and children will be heavily affected by this policy decision. There are school districts in all of our House districts that are suffering from budget changes, the effects seen are not limited to political party (Tables 1 & 2).

We understand the benefit that EdChoice vouchers offer so many residents in Ohio. But we should all be concerned with the significant cost to the remaining children and families whom we also all represent. We ask that we can work together to find a solution to this problem. The Ohio Federation of Teachers has reached out to leadership from both caucuses in the House and Senate with remedies to this issue. **For immediate relief, a sensible approach would be to reimburse school districts so their scholarship deduction does not exceed a 10% loss of Foundation Aid.**

School districts are requesting a response or some action by Feb 1, 2020. In good faith, we formally request a meeting to discuss these amendments in order to find some solutions during this General Assembly.

CC:

Emilia Sykes , House Minority Leader  
Jim Butler , House Speaker Pro Tempore  
Jonathon McGee , House Majority Chief of Staff  
Samantha Herd , House Minority Chief of Staff  
Kenny Yuko , Senate Minority Leader

Bob Peterson , Senate President Pro Tempore  
John Barron , Senate Majority Chief of Staff  
Mike Rowe , Senate Minority Chief of Staff Minority  
Dan McCarthy, Director of Legislative Affairs to the Governor  
Giles Allen, Legislative Liason to the Governor  
Emma Cardone, Legislative Liason to the Governor  
Matt Dolan, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Scott Oelslager, Chair, House Finance Committee

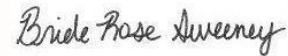
Sincerely,



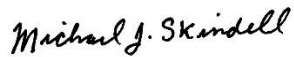
Janine Boyd  
Ohio House District 9



Stephanie Howse  
Ohio House District 11



Bride Rose Sweeney  
Ohio House District 14



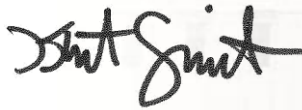
Michael J. Skindell  
Ohio House District 13



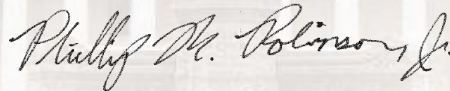
Terrence Upchurch  
Ohio House District 10



Juanita Brent  
Ohio House District 12



Kent Smith  
Ohio House District 8



Phil Robinson  
Ohio House District 6

**Table 1****School Districts with More Than 10% of Foundation Aid Deducted for State Scholarship Programs,  
FY 2019**

Data are from the Ohio Department of Education's FY 2019 first reconciliation (Final #1) payment file.		
<b>County</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Scholarship Deductions as a Percentage of Foundation Aid Allocation FY19</b>
Cuyahoga	Beachwood City SD	66.4%
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Hts-Univ Hts City	34.6%
Cuyahoga	Mayfield City SD	30.3%
Cuyahoga	Orange City SD	28.9%
Cuyahoga	Independence Local SD	26.5%
Hamilton	Indian Hill Ex Vill SD	24.0%
Hamilton	Sycamore Community City SD	19.6%
Franklin	Upper Arlington City SD	18.7%
Cuyahoga	Richmond Heights Local SD	16.7%
Lake	Kirtland Local SD	15.8%
Cuyahoga	Westlake City SD	15.3%
Cuyahoga	Rocky River City SD	14.9%
Delaware	Olentangy Local SD	14.4%
Hamilton	Cincinnati City SD	13.7%
Cuyahoga	Chagrin Falls Ex Vill SD	12.9%
Cuyahoga	Euclid City SD	12.8%
Cuyahoga	Solon City SD	12.7%
Geauga	Kenston Local SD	12.0%
Franklin	New Albany-Plain Local SD	12.0%
Summit	Copley-Fairlawn City SD	11.6%
Montgomery	Jefferson Township Local SD	11.6%
Summit	Revere Local SD	11.5%
Cuyahoga	Brecksville-Broadview Height	11.5%
Lake	Wickliffe City SD	11.0%
Mahoning	Boardman Local SD	11.0%
Cuyahoga	North Royalton City SD	10.9%
Cuyahoga	Cuyahoga Heights Local SD	10.5%
Mahoning	Youngstown City SD	10.4%
Cuyahoga	South Euclid-Lyndhurst City	10.4%
Lorain	Avon Lake City SD	10.1%
Geauga	West Geauga Local SD	10.0%

Table 2

**Selected School Funding Statistics for School Districts with More Than 10% of State Foundation Aid Deducted for State Scholarship Programs, FY 2019**

Data are from the Ohio Department of Education

County	District	EdChoice Scholarship Transfers FY19	Autism Scholarship Transfers FY19	Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Transfers FY19	Total Scholarship Transfers	Estimated Foundation Aid Generated by EdChoice Scholarship Students FY19	Estimated Foundation Aid Generated by Autism Scholarship Students FY19	Estimated Foundation Aid Generated by Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Students FY19	Estimated Total Foundation Aid Generated by Scholarship Students FY19	Total Foundation Aid Generated by Scholarship Students Less Scholarship Transfers FY19
Cuyahoga	Beachwood City SD	\$ -	\$ 150,664	\$ 532,874	\$ 683,538	\$ -	\$ 9,608	\$ 30,560	\$ 40,168	\$ (643,371)
Cuyahoga	Brecksville-Broadview Height	\$ -	\$ 273,029	\$ 269,669	\$ 542,699	\$ -	\$ 20,646	\$ 17,287	\$ 37,933	\$ (504,766)
Cuyahoga	Chagrin Falls Ex Vill SD	\$ -	\$ 49,680	\$ 167,982	\$ 217,662	\$ -	\$ 3,166	\$ 9,623	\$ 12,789	\$ (204,873)
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Hts-Univ Hts City	\$ 4,184,878	\$ 858,460	\$ 2,319,500	\$ 7,362,838	\$ 1,705,317	\$ 391,256	\$ 912,769	\$ 3,009,342	\$ (4,353,496)
Cuyahoga	Cuyahoga Heights Local SD	\$ -	\$ 24,840	\$ 32,042	\$ 56,882	\$ -	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,780	\$ 3,363	\$ (53,519)
Cuyahoga	Euclid City SD	\$ 4,863,766	\$ 417,365	\$ 376,460	\$ 5,657,590	\$ 3,363,377	\$ 398,459	\$ 289,623	\$ 4,051,458	\$ (1,606,132)
Cuyahoga	Independence Local SD	\$ -	\$ 74,520	\$ 87,458	\$ 161,978	\$ -	\$ 4,749	\$ 5,092	\$ 9,840	\$ (152,137)
Cuyahoga	Mayfield City SD	\$ -	\$ 487,518	\$ 320,404	\$ 807,922	\$ -	\$ 31,340	\$ 18,512	\$ 49,852	\$ (758,069)
Cuyahoga	North Royalton City SD	\$ -	\$ 295,321	\$ 334,374	\$ 629,695	\$ -	\$ 52,423	\$ 53,288	\$ 105,711	\$ (523,984)
Cuyahoga	Orange City SD	\$ -	\$ 225,547	\$ 229,526	\$ 455,073	\$ -	\$ 14,372	\$ 12,914	\$ 27,286	\$ (427,787)
Cuyahoga	Richmond Heights Local SD	\$ 154,650	\$ 106,468	\$ 40,379	\$ 301,497	\$ 26,728	\$ 34,287	\$ 22,477	\$ 83,493	\$ (218,004)
Cuyahoga	Rocky River City SD	\$ -	\$ 73,582	\$ 144,258	\$ 217,840	\$ -	\$ 4,749	\$ 8,247	\$ 12,996	\$ (204,844)
Cuyahoga	Solon City SD	\$ -	\$ 189,609	\$ 254,005	\$ 443,614	\$ -	\$ 14,818	\$ 18,018	\$ 32,836	\$ (410,778)
Cuyahoga	South Euclid-Lyndhurst City	\$ -	\$ 392,778	\$ 493,834	\$ 886,611	\$ -	\$ 132,253	\$ 158,137	\$ 290,390	\$ (596,221)
Cuyahoga	Westlake City SD	\$ -	\$ 99,360	\$ 284,126	\$ 383,486	\$ -	\$ 6,331	\$ 16,951	\$ 23,282	\$ (360,204)
Delaware	Olentangy Local SD	\$ -	\$ 1,150,415	\$ 624,747	\$ 1,775,162	\$ -	\$ 413,210	\$ 129,074	\$ 542,284	\$ (1,232,878)
Franklin	New Albany-Plain Local SD	\$ -	\$ 231,542	\$ 203,501	\$ 435,042	\$ -	\$ 74,388	\$ 37,536	\$ 111,924	\$ (323,118)
Franklin	Upper Arlington City SD	\$ -	\$ 406,206	\$ 230,803	\$ 637,009	\$ -	\$ 26,893	\$ 13,289	\$ 40,181	\$ (596,827)
Geauga	Kenston Local SD	\$ -	\$ 173,052	\$ 271,525	\$ 444,577	\$ -	\$ 11,080	\$ 16,759	\$ 27,839	\$ (416,738)
Geauga	West Geauga Local SD	\$ -	\$ 49,680	\$ 292,550	\$ 342,230	\$ -	\$ 3,166	\$ 16,693	\$ 19,859	\$ (322,371)
Hamilton	Cincinnati City SD	\$ 22,501,126	\$ 2,252,740	\$ 3,479,426	\$ 28,233,292	\$ 13,015,060	\$ 1,373,091	\$ 1,826,880	\$ 16,215,031	\$ (12,018,262)
Hamilton	Indian Hill Ex Vill SD	\$ -	\$ 196,039	\$ 114,850	\$ 310,888	\$ -	\$ 12,489	\$ 6,615	\$ 19,104	\$ (291,784)
Hamilton	Sycamore Community City SD	\$ -	\$ 341,544	\$ 329,697	\$ 671,241	\$ -	\$ 22,429	\$ 18,526	\$ 40,955	\$ (630,286)
Lake	Kirtland Local SD	\$ -	\$ 24,840	\$ 134,859	\$ 159,699	\$ -	\$ 1,583	\$ 7,921	\$ 9,504	\$ (150,195)
Lake	Wickliffe City SD	\$ -	\$ 149,040	\$ 116,712	\$ 265,752	\$ -	\$ 56,914	\$ 37,109	\$ 94,022	\$ (171,729)
Lorain	Avon Lake City SD	\$ -	\$ 149,040	\$ 190,759	\$ 339,799	\$ -	\$ 33,090	\$ 35,877	\$ 68,967	\$ (270,832)
Mahoning	Boardman Local SD	\$ -	\$ 863,687	\$ 205,039	\$ 1,068,725	\$ -	\$ 359,522	\$ 69,565	\$ 429,087	\$ (639,638)
Mahoning	Youngstown City SD	\$ 6,193,577	\$ 2,414,277	\$ 1,207,281	\$ 9,815,135	\$ 6,776,509	\$ 2,773,343	\$ 1,218,714	\$ 10,768,566	\$ 953,431
Montgomery	Jefferson Township Local SD	\$ 330,358	\$ 24,840	\$ 48,137	\$ 403,335	\$ 170,420	\$ 13,179	\$ 22,266	\$ 205,866	\$ (197,469)
Summit	Copley-Fairlawn City SD	\$ -	\$ 132,650	\$ 143,307	\$ 275,957	\$ -	\$ 15,403	\$ 12,916	\$ 28,318	\$ (247,638)
Summit	Revere Local SD	\$ -	\$ 146,308	\$ 103,354	\$ 249,662	\$ -	\$ 9,323	\$ 5,642	\$ 14,965	\$ (234,697)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,228,355</b>	<b>\$ 12,424,639</b>	<b>\$ 13,583,435</b>	<b>\$ 64,236,429</b>	<b>\$ 25,057,411</b>	<b>\$ 6,319,140</b>	<b>\$ 5,050,658</b>	<b>\$ 36,427,210</b>	<b>\$ (27,809,219)</b>

**Note\*** the column labeled "Total Foundation Aid Generated by Scholarship Students Less Scholarship Transfers FY 19" is the unfunded dollars districts loss