

# Understanding the impact of School Choice



Office for  
Catholic Education  
Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland



**Ohio School Choice scholarship programs provide tuition support to parents who choose to enroll their children in a participating private school.**

## ***How many new EdChoice Expansion Scholarships are there this year?***

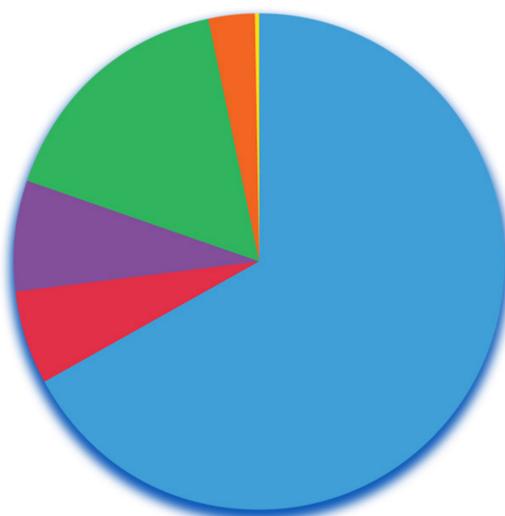
As of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 157,197 Ohioans have applied for School Choice scholarships. Of these, 70,671 are new EdChoice Expansion applications.

## ***Who's benefiting most from EdChoice scholarships in Ohio?***

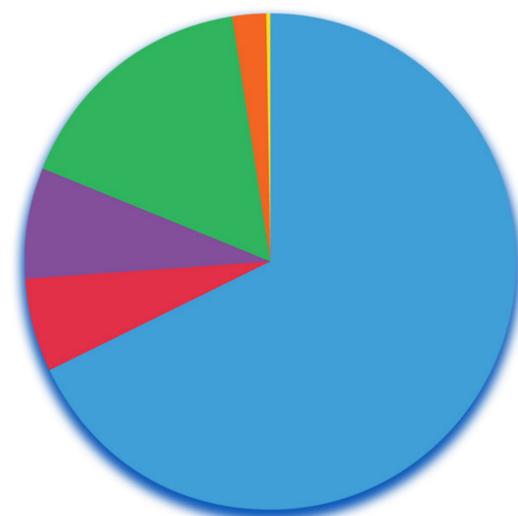
Now that school choice scholarships are available to all households in Ohio, applications of all 5 scholarship programs almost exactly match the racial and ethnic breakdown of all students reported by Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

**There is no question that Ohio's School Choice programs have provided educational lifelines to the most disadvantaged pupils, including Black and other children of color, who constitute a higher percentage of children living in poverty in Ohio.**

***Population of All Ohio Students (SY 2023)***



***Completed State Scholarship Applications (SY 2024)***



**American Indian or American Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Multiracial, White, Non-Hispanic**

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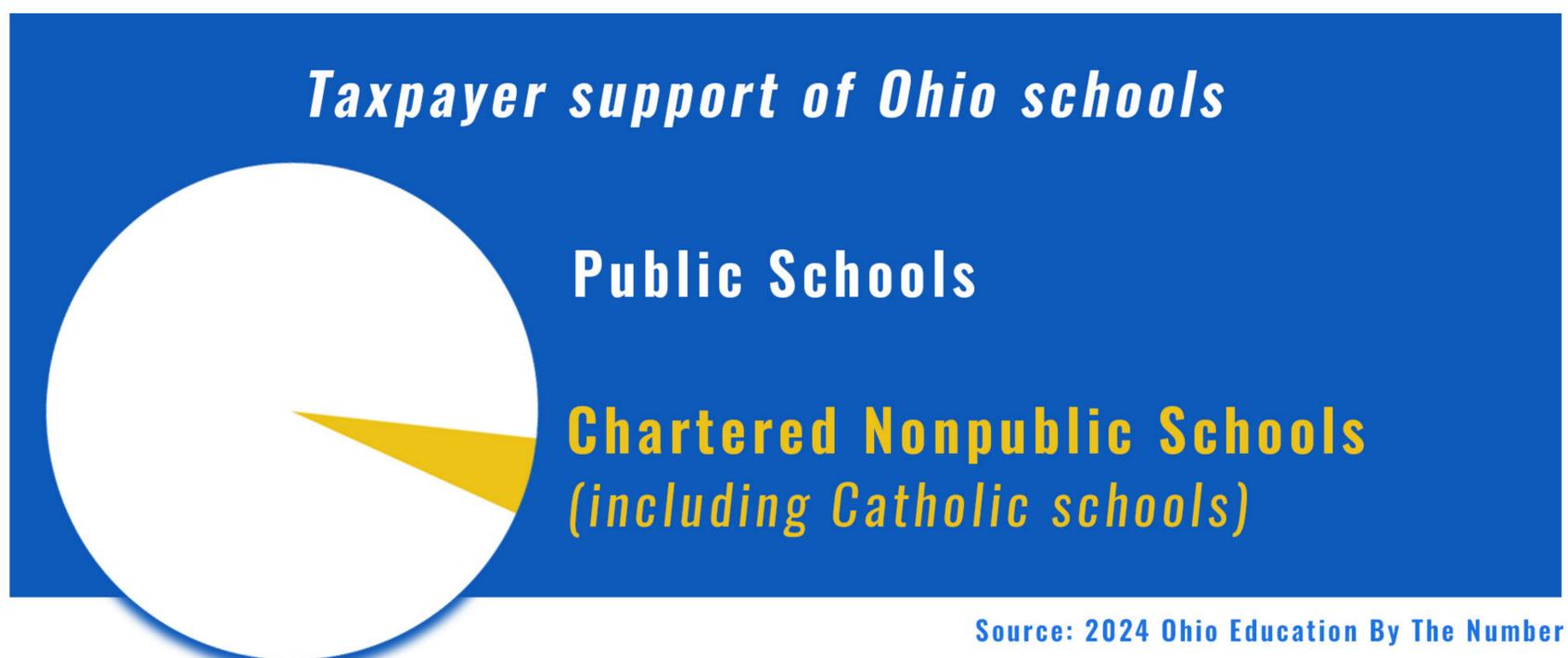
## **How can the State of Ohio afford EdChoice scholarships?**

Ohio Educational Choice Scholarships are awarded on a sliding scale that never exceeds the state maximum, currently \$6,166 and \$8,404 for grades K-8 and 9-12, respectively. This is far less than the \$15,428 public schools spent on average per pupil last year.<sup>1</sup> Each student who opts for a choice scholarship, rather than enrolling in a public school, represents a savings to taxpayers.

According to the nonpartisan Legislative Service Commission, the state anticipated growth of the EdChoice Expansion scholarship and earmarked \$400 million to fund it this year.<sup>2</sup> This earmark is an estimate, and, with all scholarships funded from the same education budget line item, the state will not run out of scholarship funding.

## **What amount of tax dollars fund Chartered Nonpublic Schools?**

Chartered Nonpublic schools, including Catholic schools, educate 9.3% of Ohio's K-12 students, while receiving less than 5% of education funding from taxpayers. For comparison, and as noted by the Fordham Institute, "Ohio Public schools receive more than \$27 billion per year from local, state, and federal tax revenues, and some non-taxpayer support."<sup>3</sup>



Source: 2024 Ohio Education By The Number

<sup>1</sup>ODEW FY 2023 District Profile Report

<sup>2</sup>ODEW FY 2024 Budget Greenbook

<sup>3</sup>2024 Ohio Education By The Numbers