

## **KNOW THE FACTS: EdChoice Scholarship Program The Impact to Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District**

**What is EdChoice?** *The EdChoice Scholarship Program provides up to 60,000 scholarships to students who attend “underperforming” public school buildings, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education. These public school buildings have been designated as “underperforming” because of their building state report cards. The scholarship must be used to attend private/parochial schools that meet requirements for program participation. **No private/parochial school is held to any academic accountability standard by the state of Ohio. The EdChoice Program will result in public taxpayer dollars being used to fund tuition payments for students at private/parochial schools.***

**Does Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District have schools designated as “underperforming?”** *Yes. In both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year, Mills Lawn School has this designation. McKinney Middle School/Yellow Springs High School is not included in this designation.*

**What criteria is used to determine this designation?** *The Ohio Department of Education is using data from the Ohio School Report Cards from 2013-2014, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 to designate a school or schools meeting one or more of the following conditions as EdChoice schools:*

### **2019-2020 Criteria**

- **Performance** – *If the school received a Performance Index grade of D or F and a Value-Added (overall) grade of D or F on both the 2013 and 2014 Ohio School Report Cards; the school did not receive an overall grade of A or B and Value-Added (overall) grade of A on the 2018 report card.*
- **Graduation** – *The school serves grades 9-12 and received a Graduation Rate grade of D or F on any two report cards from 2013, 2014 and 2018.*
- **Lowest 10%** - *The school(s) ranked in the lowest 10 percent of public school buildings on the Performance Index on the Ohio School Report Cards for any two Performance Index rankings from 2013, 2014 and 2018; the school did not receive an overall grade of A or B on the 2018 report card.*
- **Literacy** – *The school received a grade of D or F for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers on the 2014 and 2018 report cards. [Mills Lawn School qualifies because of a grade of D for K-3 Literacy in both 2014 and 2018.](#)*
- **District Performance** – *The school’s public district has an open enrollment policy under which no student in the grade level is assigned to a specific school building; the district received a Performance Index grade of D or F and overall Value-Added grade of D or F on the 2013 and 2014 report cards; and the district received an overall grade of D or F or Value-Added (overall) grade of F on the 2018 report card.*
- **Academic Distress** – *The school’s public district has an academic distress commission.*

### **2020-2021 Criteria**

- **Performance** – *If any of the following is true for two report cards from 2014, 2018, 2019: If the school received a Performance Index grade of D or F and a Value-Added (overall) grade of D or F on the 2014 report card, OR the school received an overall grade of D or F or a Value-Added (overall) grade of F on the 2018 or 2019 report card.*
- **Graduation** – *The school serves grades 9-12 and received a Graduation Rate grade of D or F on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019.*
- **Lowest 10%** - *The school(s) ranked in the lowest 10 percent of public school buildings on the Performance Index on the Ohio School Report Cards for any two Performance Index rankings from 2014, 2018 and 2019; the school did not receive an overall grade of A or B on the 2019 report card.*
- **Literacy** – *The school received a grade of D or F for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers on any two report cards from 2014, 2018 and 2019. [Mills Lawn School qualifies because of a grade of D for K-3 Literacy in both 2014 and 2018.](#)*
- **District Performance** – *No districts are eligible under this criterion.*
- **Academic Distress** – *The school’s public district has an academic distress commission.*

**How can a school be removed from this designation?** *Removal criteria is unclear. However, one can assume that schools may be removed from the list should they improve based on the three-year cycle of data that has been previously used. This is speculation only. There are no clear, definitive exit criteria at this time.*

Unfortunately, Mills Lawn School will most likely remain on the EdChoice list for the foreseeable future. Why? In 2019, MLS earned a Not Rated (NR) for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers (formerly called the K-3 literacy measure). A grade of NR means that fewer than 5% of kindergarten students were not on track. While seemingly a good thing, legislation detailing the K-3 literacy measure does not recognize a grade of NR. As such, even if our 2020 Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers grade is above a D, we would most likely still carry the EdChoice designation.

**What is the amount of the EdChoice Scholarship?** \$4,650 for students entering grades K-8 and \$6,000 for students entering grades 9-12.

**Who is eligible to apply for a scholarship?**

- Students currently attending a private/parochial school in grades 9-11, even though they have never attended a public high school.
- Students attending a public school in their resident district, who will be assigned to one of the designated public schools for the upcoming school year.
- Students eligible to enter kindergarten for the appropriate year (and who will be five (5) years of age by January 1, 2021), who would be assigned to one of the designated public schools.
- Students enrolling in an Ohio school for the first time who would be assigned to one of the designated public schools for the upcoming school year.

**Will private/parochial schools be required to accept all students who are eligible for EdChoice Scholarship payment?**

- **No.** Private/parochial schools will continue to have a selective entrance process for enrollment of students. It is at the discretion of the private/parochial school as to which students are accepted to attend. **They do not have to accept any student if they do not want to enroll that student.**

**What will be the projected financial impact to Yellow Springs EVSD?**

- The state will deduct from our public school district funding to cover the cost of scholarships awarded per student from our district. This is not flow-through money.
- Students, once on an EdChoice scholarship, can be granted the scholarship every year until graduation as long as they meet continued eligibility criteria, EVEN if the school through which they earned eligibility goes off EdChoice status.
- The projected impact will be financially devastating for Yellow Springs Schools and many other public school districts. It is difficult to predict the number of students who may leave the YSEVSD or who are already attending a private high school. We are projecting the financial impact to be:

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| Actual for fiscal year 2019-2020:           | \$4,650   |
| <u>Potential</u> for fiscal year 2020-2021: | \$181,350 |
| <u>Potential</u> for fiscal year 2021-2022: | \$193,350 |
| <u>Potential</u> for fiscal year 2022-2023: | \$235,350 |

**What's next?** The Ohio Legislature is currently considering the effects and possible amendment of this program. If you have concerns, contact your legislators **IMMEDIATELY**. We have included a list of contact information to assist you. Thank you in advance for your help!

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| Senator Bob D. Hackett      | 614-466-3780 |
| Representative Rick Perales | 614-644-6020 |
| Governor Mike DeWine        | 614-644-4357 |