



THERE IS NO APPLICATION IN THIS PACKET.

Autism Scholarship Program

Steps to Apply

1

Eligibility: Your child is eligible for the Autism scholarship if he/she has a current IEP that places them on the Autism Spectrum. Eligibility begins at age 3 and goes through high school graduation.

2

Select a participating private school or Service Provider: Review the list of registered providers and select the one you are interested in using as a primary provider for your child's education and related services. You can use more than 1 participating provider to cover the services on your child's IEP.

3

Apply to a participating private school or provider: Complete any enrollment or registration paperwork required by the provider.

4

Scholarship Deadline: The private school or provider will apply for the Autism Scholarship on your child's behalf. Applications are processed year-round except April-June.

NOTE: The Ohio Department of Education will mail written notification to parents about whether or not their child has been awarded a scholarship. The approval process usually takes less than a month and the scholarship can usually be used immediately after it is approved.

We're here to Help.

www.schoio.org | info@schoio.org

(800) 673-5876

Autism Scholarship Program Fact Sheet

WHAT IS OHIO'S AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) gives the parents of children with autism, who qualify for a scholarship, the choice to send the child to a special education program other than the one operated by the school district of residence to receive their education and the services outlined in the child's individualized education program (IEP).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP?

Children who are at least three years old, but less than twenty two years old, have been identified by their school district of residence as a child with autism, and have a current, finalized IEP with that district are eligible for the autism scholarship.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student is eligible for the autism scholarship program, the first step is to register for services with a participating autism scholarship provider. That provider will give you the form to apply and assist you by submitting your application online.

WHEN WILL AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

WILL EVERY CHILD WHO APPLIES BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student meets the eligibility requirements, they will be awarded a scholarship. There is no cap on the number of autism scholarships available.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The autism scholarship amount is the lesser of the fee charged for the child by the special education program or up to twenty-seven thousand dollars per program year. The child must be in the program for the full academic year to receive the full amount.

WILL PARENTS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?

Parents may have to pay for services not covered under the scholarship. Also, if the provider's fees for covered services exceed the amount of the scholarship, the parent is responsible for the balance.

CAN A CHILD ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND USE THE SCHOLARSHIP?

No. The scholarship is an educational choice program. If a student is approved for the scholarship, the public district is no longer responsible for providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The student must use the scholarship to obtain their education AND the supportive services indicated on their IEP.

ARE CHILDREN WITH WHO ARE IN PRIVATE SCHOOL OR ARE HOME SCHOOLED ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, but they must first obtain an IEP from their district of residence.

IF MY CHILD IS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HOW LONG CAN HE/SHE CONTINUE TO USE THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are approved through June 30th of the current program year. Each spring, parents who are interested in continuing to receive the scholarship must submit a renewal application. If the student has a current IEP and is still qualifies for special education under the category of autism, then they can continue to receive the scholarship for the next program year. Scholarships can be renewed until the child graduates from high school or reaches age twenty two.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the autism scholarship webpage at <http://education.ohio.gov/autism> or send an email to AutismScholarship@education.ohio.gov



Parent Checklist When Visiting Schools or Providers

Choosing a school for your child is a difficult and important decision. During your visit, it is important that you have all of the information that you need to make that decision. Make copies of this checklist to take to each school that you visit. Please ask about the following:

School Name _____ Contact Name _____ Phone _____

School Policies

Admission Requirements? _____

Volunteering? _____

Discipline? _____

Religious Expectations? _____

Attendance? _____

School Information

Number of Students? _____ Average class size? _____

Do You Offer....

Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Financial Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No \$
Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No \$

Before/After Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$
Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$
Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$
Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$
Clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$
Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$

Other Costs

Tuition	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____
Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____
Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____
Enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____
Books/Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____
Uniforms	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____

You should be prepared to provide the following information to the private school: birth certificate, proof of your address (copy of recent utility bill), report cards and/or test records from your child's previous school. A scholarship request form and income verification forms can be obtained from the private school or provider. Please keep copies of all documents provided to the private school.

How to: Provider Search



Step 1: Go to School Choice Ohio's Website:

www.scoho.org

Step 2: Scroll down (below the videos) and select the **"Scholarship"** box

Step 3: From the list displayed, select the Scholarship you are interested in

For Cleveland, EdChoice & Income-Based Programs:

- a) Scroll down to the section titled: **"What private school can my child attend?"**
- b) Click on the link: **"Click here"** to access dashboard
- c) Click on **"Select Program"** on the top left hand corner – Select a program
- d) Within the Search Engine
 1. Verify your application period
 2. Specify the county you wish to run your search for
 3. Click on the Search button
 4. List is organized alphabetically by provider name

For Autism & Jon Peterson Special Needs:

- a) Scroll down to the section titled **"What can we use the scholarship for?"**
- b) Click on the link: **"Click here"** to access dashboard
- c) Click on **"Select Program"** on the top left hand corner – Select a Program
- d) Within the Search Engine
 1. Verify your application period
 2. Specify the county you wish to run your search for
 3. Click on the Search button
 4. List is organized alphabetically by provider name
- e) Click on the **"Details"** magnifying glass on the far right-hand column to see contact details and list of services for that provider

