

# OHIO'S SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS




Empowering Ohio families with excellent educational opportunities for every child.



*“For my children, having the ability to make this choice means a brighter future. I can’t possibly express how much this scholarship will change our lives and my children’s futures.”*



A young girl with brown hair styled in two buns is smiling and holding a red heart-shaped puzzle made of colorful pieces. She is wearing a striped tank top. The background is a plain yellow wall.

*“The Autism Scholarship has been an absolute blessing for our family. Because of it, our child has been able to learn and grow in ways we never thought were possible.”*

# OHIO AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## Autism Scholarships can be used toward:

- Services and education at participating private schools
- Costs at participating service providers of the parents' choice

*Note: The scholarship cannot be used for supplemental services if the child continues to attend a public school within his or her home district.*

There is no cap on the number of Autism Scholarships available. Any eligible student who applies will receive a scholarship.

Scholarship recipients can continue to renew their scholarship each year through high school graduation.

Created in 2003, the **Autism Scholarship Program** expands education options for students on the autism spectrum.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Any child ages 3-21 who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that states autism diagnosis from his or her home district and is in need of autism related services is eligible to apply.
- Preschool students are eligible for the Autism Scholarship. The inclusion of preschool students encourages critically important early intervention.



# JON PETERSON SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Special Needs Scholarships can be used toward:

- Services and education at participating private schools
- Costs at participating service providers of the parents' choice
- Parents can mix or match services from more than 200 schools and providers

*Note: The scholarship cannot be used for supplemental services if the child continues to attend a public school within his or her home district.*

Scholarship recipients can continue to renew their scholarship each year through high school graduation or the student's 22nd birthday, whichever comes first.

Created in 2011, the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program expands education options for students with special needs.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Students in grades K-12 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) from their home school district are eligible to apply.
- Current private school students are also eligible as long as they obtain an IEP from their home school district.

# SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP AID

Special Education Category
Speech or Language Only*
Specific Learning Disability, Cognitive Disability or Other Health-Impaired - minor
Hearing or Vision Impaired or Severe Behavior Disability
Orthopedic Impairment or Other Health Impaired - major
Multi-Handicapped
Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Hearing- and Vision - Impaired

*\*Scholarships awarded to students in the speech or language only category cannot be used toward private school tuition. They are limited to cover services indicated on the student's IEP.*

# How to **APPLY** for These Scholarships

**RESEARCH** the participating schools and providers in your area:

Ohio Department of Education-approved providers for both scholarship programs are available at: <https://scholarship.ode.state.oh.us>

## STEP 1

Families may use the funds to pay for services at more than one approved provider to fulfill the services listed on a child's IEP.

Make sure the combined provider costs to fulfill your child's services are equal to or less than your scholarship amount, or make arrangements to cover the additional costs.

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## STEP 2

**CHOOSE** the school and/or providers that you want to attend.

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## STEP 3

**APPLY** to the school and/or providers of your choice. The school or main provider will then apply for the scholarship on your behalf.

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*These scholarship programs are funded by the State of Ohio and administered by the Ohio Department of Education.*

*NOTE: A child cannot receive more than one state scholarship per year*

## DEADLINES to Apply

Scholarship applications are accepted and processed year-round, except in April.

*Founded in 2005, School Choice Ohio is the only statewide organization that educates families on their education options and advocates for the expansion of quality education options for every Ohio child.*



Empowering Ohio families with excellent educational opportunities for every child.

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