



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3310.03 Eligibility of students to participate in program.

Effective: October 3, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 33

For the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, subject to division (G) of this section, a student is an "eligible student" for purposes of the educational choice scholarship pilot program if the student's resident district is not a school district in which the pilot project scholarship program is operating under sections 3313.974 to 3313.979 of the Revised Code, the student satisfies one of the conditions in division (A), (B), or (C) of this section, and the student maintains eligibility to receive a scholarship under division (D) of this section.

However, any student who received a scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year under this section, as it existed prior to March 2, 2021, shall continue to receive that scholarship until the student completes grade twelve, as long as the student maintains eligibility to receive a scholarship under division (D) of this section.

(A)(1) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student is enrolled in a school building operated by the student's resident district and to which both of the following apply:

(a) The building was ranked in the lowest twenty per cent of all buildings operated by city, local, and exempted village school districts according to performance index score as determined by the department of education and workforce, as follows:

(i) For a scholarship sought for the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 school year, the building was ranked in the lowest twenty per cent of buildings for each of the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

(ii) For a scholarship sought for the 2023-2024 school year, the building was ranked in the lowest twenty per cent of buildings for each of the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years.

(iii) For a scholarship sought for the 2024-2025 school year, the building was ranked in the lowest twenty per cent of buildings for each of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.



(iv) For a scholarship sought for the 2025-2026 school year or any school year thereafter, the building was ranked in the lowest twenty per cent of buildings for at least two of the three most recent consecutive rankings issued prior to the first day of July of the school year for which a scholarship is sought.

(b) The building is operated by a school district in which, for the three consecutive school years prior to the school year for which a scholarship is sought, an average of twenty per cent or more of the students entitled to attend school in the district, under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, were qualified to be included in the formula to distribute funds under Title I of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965," 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

When ranking school buildings under division (A)(1) of this section, the department shall not include buildings operated by a school district in which the pilot project scholarship program is operating in accordance with sections 3313.974 to 3313.979 of the Revised Code.

(2) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student will be enrolling in any of grades kindergarten through twelve in this state for the first time in the school year for which a scholarship is sought, will be at least five years of age, as defined in section 3321.01 of the Revised Code, by the first day of January of the school year for which a scholarship is sought, and otherwise would be assigned under section 3319.01 of the Revised Code in the school year for which a scholarship is sought, to a school building described in division (A)(1) of this section.

(3) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student is enrolled in a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code but otherwise would be assigned under section 3319.01 of the Revised Code to a building described in division (A)(1) of this section.

(4) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student is enrolled in a school building operated by the student's resident district or in a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code and otherwise would be assigned under section 3319.01 of the Revised Code to a school building described in division (A)(1) of this section in the school year for which the scholarship is sought.

(5) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student was enrolled in a public or nonpublic school



or was homeschooled in the prior school year and completed any of grades eight through eleven in that school year and otherwise would be assigned under section 3319.01 of the Revised Code to a school building described in division (A)(1) of this section in the school year for which the scholarship is sought.

(B) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student is enrolled in a nonpublic school at the time the school is granted a charter by the director of education and workforce under section 3301.16 of the Revised Code and the student meets the standards of division (B) of section 3310.031 of the Revised Code.

(C) A student is eligible for a scholarship if the student's resident district is subject to section 3302.10 of the Revised Code and the student either:

(1) Is enrolled in a school building operated by the resident district or in a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code;

(2) Will be both enrolling in any of grades kindergarten through twelve in this state for the first time and at least five years of age by the first day of January of the school year for which a scholarship is sought.

(D) A student who receives a scholarship under the educational choice scholarship pilot program remains an eligible student and may continue to receive scholarships in subsequent school years until the student completes grade twelve, so long as all of the following apply:

(1) The student's resident district remains the same, or the student transfers to a new resident district and otherwise would be assigned in the new resident district to a school building described in division (A)(1) or (C) of this section.

(2) The student takes each assessment prescribed for the student's grade level under section 3301.0710, 3301.0712, or 3313.619 of the Revised Code while enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school, unless one of the following applies to the student:

(a) The student is excused from taking that assessment under federal law, the student's individualized



education program, or division (C)(1)(c)(i) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(b) The student is enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school that meets the conditions specified in division (K)(2) or (L)(4) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(c) The student is enrolled in any of grades three to eight and takes an alternative standardized assessment under division (K)(1) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(d) The student is excused from taking the assessment prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code pursuant to division (C)(1)(c)(ii) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(3) In each school year that the student is enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school, the student is absent from school for not more than twenty days that the school is open for instruction, not including excused absences.

(E)(1) The department shall cease awarding first-time scholarships pursuant to divisions (A)(1) to (5) of this section with respect to a school building that, in the most recent ratings of school buildings under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code prior to the first day of July of the school year, ceases to meet the criteria in division (A)(1) of this section.

(2) The department shall cease awarding first-time scholarships pursuant to division (C) of this section with respect to a school district subject to section 3302.10 of the Revised Code when the academic distress commission established for the district ceases to exist.

(3) However, students who have received scholarships in the prior school year remain eligible students pursuant to division (D) of this section.

(F) The department shall adopt rules defining excused absences for purposes of division (D)(3) of this section.

(G) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section or section 3310.031 of the Revised Code, a student shall not be required to be enrolled or enrolling in a school building operated by the



student's resident district or a community school in order to be eligible for a scholarship, as follows:

- (1) For a scholarship sought for the 2021-2022 school year, a student entering any of grades kindergarten through two;
 - (2) For a scholarship sought for the 2022-2023 school year, a student entering any of grades kindergarten through four;
 - (3) For a scholarship sought for the 2023-2024 school year, a student entering any of grades kindergarten through six;
 - (4) For a scholarship sought for the 2024-2025 school year, a student entering any of grades kindergarten through eight;
 - (5) For a scholarship sought for the 2025-2026 school year, and each school year thereafter, a student entering any of grades kindergarten through twelve.
- (H) Except as provided for in section 3310.13 of the Revised Code and in division (C)(2) of section 3365.07 of the Revised Code, the department shall not require the parent of a student who applies for or receives a scholarship under this section or section 3310.033, 3310.034, or 3310.035 of the Revised Code to complete any kind of income verification regarding the student's family income.