

## EDCHOICE APPLICATION TIPS & COMMON MISTAKES

With your EdChoice application, be sure to include:

1. A utility bill that shows **both** the service address **AND** the mailing address. These must both be on the document and they must match
2. The **last four digits** of your child's social security number
3. Your child's **middle** name, as well as your own
4. The name of the public school **building** where your child is assigned to attend by your public school district. (If you do not know, put your address into a search engine, then choose [realtor.com](https://www.realtor.com), scroll to the end of your home's page where you will find the public schools for your neighborhood. Choose the correct building based on your child's grade level.) ODE will not accept your application without this information.
5. Check the box at the top of your application to indicate whether you are applying for EdChoice **Traditional** or EdChoice **Expansion**. If there are no boxes to check, write "traditional" or "expansion" at the top of your application. SEE BELOW FOR TRADITIONAL VS EXPANSION guidance.
6. Ensure that all images are clear enough to be read if you are sending photographs.
7. Ensure that you are sending all three documents – 1) an accurately completed EdChoice application, 2) a utility bill that proves your address is your address and 3) your child's birth certificate.

We **strongly** suggest that you complete your income verification on a laptop or desktop computer while you are watching the ODE video on how to complete your income verification on another device. Pause that video as needed so that you do not miss any steps. (Do this when you have adequate time, are well rested, and are free from distractions/interruptions.)

It also seems to be helpful to print out the income verification form and complete it first. Then you'll know what information is required and which documents you will need to scan and upload. You will not scan that completed income verification form, but you will have the info you need at your fingertips as you work your way through the online process.

## EDCHOICE EXPANSION VS TRADITIONAL?

EVERY IHM STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR EDCHOICE EXPANSION, HOWEVER....

IHM families are eligible for Traditional EdChoice if:

1. your child is assigned to attend a public school that is on the EdChoice designated list. This means it is a low-performing school\*\*. In Summit County, there are 28 schools in the Akron Public School District that are EdChoice designated. No other Summit County School Districts have this designation among their schools.

**AND**

2. your child is entering K-6th grade this year.

If your child has been an IHM student and is entering 7th or 8th grade, Traditional EdChoice is not available, UNLESS...

1. your child is entering 7th or 8th grade, **AND** a sibling has a Traditional EdChoice Scholarship. Lisa will need to know the sibling's name and his/her Student App ID (from the EdChoice Parent Portal). Include that in your email.

If your child is transferring into 7th or 8th grade at IHM from an EdChoice designated public school, then he/she IS eligible for Traditional EdChoice.

The **big advantage** of applying for Traditional EdChoice, if your child is eligible, is that you are guaranteed the full scholarship of \$6,165 no matter your family's income level. You do **not** have to submit income verification for Traditional EdChoice.

\*\*There is a PDF of the EdChoice **Designated Schools** list on the ODE EdChoice main web page. You can sort by county, district and building.