

Autism Scholarship Program  
25 S. Front Street,  
Mail Stop 310  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183

(877) OHIO EDU [toll free]  
- OR -  
Email

[autismscholarship@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:autismscholarship@ode.state.oh.us)

Susan L. Cosmo  
Associate Director  
Quality School Choice and Funding

Lisa Huckins  
Education Program Consultant

Visit the ODE web site at:  
<http://education.ohio.gov> scroll  
over "School Options" and down to  
"Scholarship Programs" to find

ASP List of Providers  
ASP Student Application  
ASP Frequently Asked Questions

#### Autism Dates to Remember

June 30, 2012 Renewal Deadline

June 30, 2012 Program year ends

July 1, 2012 New Program year  
begins

# OHIO AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## FACT SHEET

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).

### 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 private provider.

### When will Applications be Accepted?

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

### Who is Eligible to Apply for the 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.

Note: A child who has been identified as having a pervasive developmental disorder – not otherwise specified (PDD–NOS) shall be considered to be a child with autism for purposes of the Autism Scholarship Program.

### 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 thousand dollars per program year.

### Will parents/legal guardians have to pay any amount of money?

Parents/legal guardians 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 children who are attending a private school or home schooled apply?

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

### Can a child attend school in the public district and use the scholarship to pay for support services?

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 and appropriate education (FAPE). The student must use the scholarship to obtain their education AND supportive services.

### Will every child that applies be awarded a scholarship?

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

### 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 May, 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 identified as having autism by their resident district, 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.