

## Senate Bill 85 - A New Opportunity for Ohio Families

A new proposal to expand quality education options for families across the state is in the works in the Ohio Senate. Senate Bill 85, sponsored by Senator Huffman, aims to merge the Cleveland, EdChoice, and Income-Based Scholarship programs into one new statewide scholarship program called the Ohio Opportunity Scholarship.

The Opportunity Scholarship Program would give low and middle income families the opportunity to choose the best learning environment for their child. Some highlights of the proposal include:

- Families with a household income at or below 400% of federal poverty guidelines would be eligible to apply for their kids. Currently, 400 percent of poverty for a family of four is \$98,400.
- Scholarships would be worth up to \$5000 for grades K-8 and up to \$7,500 for high school.
- Education Savings Accounts would allow families to save leftover scholarship money for future tuition costs or other education expenses in Ohio.
- Students currently receiving the Cleveland, EdChoice, and Income-Based scholarships and their siblings would automatically be eligible for the new program, regardless of their family income.
- Program would be direct funded, and would not take money from public schools.

School choice has momentum in Ohio, but if you want this plan to become a reality, you need to speak up now! Take the following steps to voice your support for Senator Huffman's SB85. We've provided some points below to help guide your meeting, call, email and letter.

- Step 1:** **Plan to Attend** the Opportunity Scholarship Rally on May 2 – register online at: <http://bit.ly/2IUSKJt>
- Step 2:** **Invite** your state senator and representative to visit your school and share your support of Senate Bill 85  
(Look up your legislators here: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/find-my-legislators>)
- Step 3:** **Call & Email** your legislators to tell them why you support the Opportunity Scholarship  
(Remember to Blind Copy [sb85info@gmail.com](mailto:sb85info@gmail.com) so we can track outreach efforts)
- Step 4:** **Write** a letter to your local newspaper indicating your support of Senate Bill 85
- Step 5:** **Talk** to other parents, your school principal, or other civic groups you belong to about the bill
- Step 6:** **Attend** your local school board meeting when they are considering a resolution on SB85 and speak up about what SB85 means to your school.

### Important points to share with your legislators:

- I support Senate Bill 85 because it would create the Opportunity Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to students from low and middle income families so they can attend the school of their choice.
- I support Senate Bill 85 because it will improve my community.
- I support this program because I believe all parents should have the opportunity to choose the best school for their child's learning needs.
- Parents know their kids best, and they want them to be in a school where they can reach their full potential.
- Share your family's personal experience with a scholarship program and how it changed your child's life for the better. (If applicable)
- I believe the Opportunity Scholarship Program is important for our community where families just want the best for their kids and they don't want their limited income to be a factor in determining their child's future.

**For more information email:** [sb85info@gmail.com](mailto:sb85info@gmail.com)