



Ohio Vouchers Fail to Raise Student Achievement

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The latest data from the Ohio Department of Education showed that students in the state's voucher programs did not perform better academically than their peers in public schools. In fact, public school students outscored those in voucher schools in many cases.

This [article](#) summarized the data and concluded that voucher students did not benefit academically from vouchers. More detailed information can be obtained from the state Department of Education [web site](#).

Ohio has two voucher programs—the Cleveland Scholarship Program and the Educational Choice Scholarship Program (EdChoice). Overall test scores of students in the Cleveland voucher program lag behind those of their peers' in the public schools. The data were significant because last year was the first time the students in the Cleveland voucher program were required to take the state tests since its inception in 1995.

Overall, the latest 2009–2010 test results showed that higher percentages of students in Cleveland public schools scored proficient in reading and in math than those in voucher schools. Specifically third and fourth graders in the Cleveland district scored higher in reading and math than their peers in voucher schools. From fifth to eighth grades students in the Cleveland district outscored their voucher peers in math by double digits.

Data from the EdChoice program, which began in 2005, also showed students from larger cities scoring higher than their peers in voucher schools.

The Cleveland voucher program currently enrolls about 6,000 students offering up to \$3,450 per student with an annual budget of \$20.6 million. EdChoice currently enrolls about 1,300 students (with a cap of 1,400) and offers up to \$4,375 for students in grades K–8 and \$5,150 for students in grades 9–12 with an annual budget of \$44 million.

For more information about these and other voucher programs, visit NSBA's Voucher Strategy Center at <http://www.nsba.org/novouchers>.