

The EdChoice litigation is limited to only Ohio's EdChoice voucher scheme.

The voucher litigation now before the 10th District Court of Appeals is a challenge only to the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher scheme. The other voucher schemes—Jon Peterson, autism and Cleveland voucher programs—are not part of this case.

The clear intent of the Voinovich administration in the early and mid-1990s was to sow the seeds for a universal voucher scheme. Before the Cleveland voucher project was launched Governor Voinovich appointed a “Parent Choice Committee” to study vouchers. A businessman who was interested in profiting from tax-supported private schools chaired the study committee, which was dominated by voucher supporters. The Committee report recommended that every school district offer a voucher to every student. That recommendation was a nonstarter, but it was the genesis of the Cleveland voucher project.

The Governor convinced the legislature to enact the Cleveland voucher program, which was funded from the Cleveland School District budget. Most Cleveland voucher students enrolled in the Cleveland Catholic private school system. The Cleveland voucher program was confined to Cleveland district. Other voucher schemes were legislated a few years after the Cleveland voucher deal; the EdChoice and EdChoice expansion.

Over the years EdChoice has become universal, which was the original intent of the creators of the Cleveland voucher project, but the Cleveland program has remained separate. To date, the Cleveland School District has not challenged the system in court.