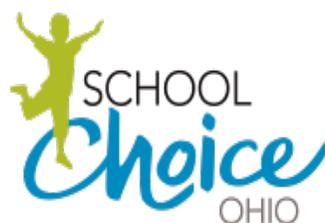




OACAA News

School Choice Ohio Helps Transition from Head Start Programs

Many Community Action Agencies in Ohio offer Head Start programs. And in order to continue the quality education that students receive through Head Start, often programs host Kindergarten Transition fairs and parent information meetings, to bring together families of preschoolers to select the right school.



There are more and more school options available for families, so it is important for Head Start programs to be able to provide information to guide parents in making quality choices for their children's future education. Parents' options in Ohio include arts schools, math schools, project-based schools. There are online schools, boarding schools, career schools, special needs schools, language immersion schools, traditional schools, and gifted schools. School Choice Ohio can help with these choices.

"We love helping inform parents about their whole range of options. We coach parents to become savvy school shoppers – finding good quality schools that are a good fit for their children," said Sarah Pechan Driver, senior director of programs for School Choice Ohio. "We help parents across the state learn about all of Ohio's education options – public, private, homeschool, wherever it may be."

School Choice Ohio believes no school is the right fit for every child. "Some students aren't being challenged enough, or maybe they aren't getting enough support. It may be that they're being bullied and need a way out. It may be that they have passions for art, language, or math that they want to pursue," explained Driver.

Once parents find the type of school they want, it's time to apply or enroll. Those processes work differently depending on what type of school it is – in-district, out of district, charter, private, homeschool co-op. "Our website (www.schoio.org) has the scoop on what is required to attend each type of school," Driver said.

Since 2005, School Choice Ohio has been reaching out to Ohio families by mail, phone, email, social media and community events to inform them about the education options that are available for their children. They serve as a resource for Ohio families and community organizations, including free CEUs and presentations across the state.

For more information, visit <http://www.schoio.org/advocates/advocates-get-informed/ceu.html>, call (614) 223-1555 or email info@schoio.org. "We would love to talk with you about partnering with us for a parent meeting or CEU," Driver said. "Giving parents real power and real information about one of the things that matters most to them - the education of their children - is the only way to drive sustained, continuous improvement in Ohio's education system."