

Cleveland and EdChoice Scholarship Programs Acceptable Forms of Address Proof

Proof of residency is required of all first-year and renewal applicants and must be submitted to the school with the application. Parents/Guardians must document residency by providing the school with a current (less than 3 months old) utility bill. The utility bill **MUST SHOW MATCHING SERVICE AND MAILING ADDRESS** in the name of the Parent/Guardian. Post office boxes and Cell Phone Bills have no Service Address and therefore are not accepted.

Acceptable Utilities (Must show matching Mailing and Service Address): Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer, Cable/Internet.

Other Acceptable Documents: Monthly mortgage statement and Lease/rental agreement (signed) and one (1) other official document (like a pay stub, bank statement, insurance statement, car payment statement, etc) with parent's name and address.

Additional information can be found on the scholarship webpage.

If the student's parent/guardian has no utilities in his/her name, then the parent/guardian must provide the following:

1. A signed and notarized statement from the person (i.e., third party) with whom the parent/guardian and the student live or from whom they rent that confirms that they reside at the address. This letter must be from the third party, not the parent/guardian.
2. A copy of a current utility bill in the name of that third party, AND
3. A copy of a piece of current business type mail in the name of the parent/guardian.
 - a. Business mail would be things such as pay stubs, car notes, car insurance, monthly bank statements, and official document from a government agency. It must be a business with which the parent/guardian is currently doing regular business.
 - b. NO credit card solicitations or service set-up work orders. NOTHING HAND WRITTEN.
4. Following is an example of how this alternative works: Ms. Smith's daughter has an EdChoice scholarship. She and her daughter reside with her uncle, Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown will need to write or type a statement and have it notarized, which should include him signing the statement in front of a notary. He will also need to provide a copy of a current utility bill in his name, since he owns or rents the property. Ms. Smith must provide a copy of last month's bank statement. Compiled together, this alternative will suffice as proof of residence for the student regarding the current school year. She must do this annually. If she should move and obtain utilities in her name, then this alternative method is no longer her option and she must comply with the required utility bill requirement instead.
5. Another example of how this alternative works is the following: Mr. Johnson's son has an EdChoice scholarship. Mr. Johnson and his son live in an apartment. All of the utilities are included in the price of the rent, so Mr. Johnson does not receive any utility bills in his name. Mr. Johnson will need to obtain a notarized letter from the rental office confirming that he and his son live in the apartment. Mr. Johnson will also need to provide another form of address proof, such as a current pay stub or bank statement.

Unacceptable proof of address includes **cell phone bills**, tax forms, junk mail, and driver's licenses. Old and outdated (more than 3 months) address proof is also unacceptable.

Parents/guardians must remember to keep the school informed of any address changes that occur and to submit the required documentation to ensure continued program eligibility.

The Ohio Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, age, disability, or ethnic background.