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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 311  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. O'Brien

Mariah M. Parr, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Permits students to receive an Ed Choice or Cleveland scholarship and either an Autism or Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship in the same school year.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Concurrent scholarship eligibility

The bill permits a qualifying student to receive an Educational Choice (Ed Choice) or Pilot Project (Cleveland) scholarship and either the Autism or Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship in the same school year. A student must meet the eligibility requirements for each scholarship received. A student who receives an Ed Choice or Cleveland Scholarship under the bill's provisions remains an eligible student for that scholarship so long as the student continues to meet the eligibility criteria for the scholarship. The amount a student receives under the concurrently received scholarships cannot exceed the total amount paid for services or tuition and fees provided to a student under those scholarships.

Under current law, a student cannot qualify for the Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship if the student has received an Ed Choice scholarship, Cleveland scholarship, or Autism scholarship.<sup>1</sup>

#### Background

The Ed Choice Scholarship Program operates statewide in every school district except Cleveland to provide scholarships for students to enroll in participating chartered nonpublic schools. Students may qualify for a traditional Ed Choice scholarship if they are assigned or would be assigned to district school buildings that have persistently low academic achievement or meet

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3310.034 and 3310.51.

certain other criteria established under continuing law. Any student may receive an Ed Choice Expansion scholarship, though the amount of that scholarship is determined based on the student's family adjusted gross income.

The Pilot Project (Cleveland) Scholarship Program allows students who are residents of the Cleveland Municipal School District to obtain scholarships to attend participating nonpublic schools or public schools in adjacent districts.

The Autism Scholarship Program provides scholarships to autistic students in any of grades pre-K-12 whose parents choose to enroll the student in an approved special education program other than the one offered by the student's school district.

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program is similar to the Autism Scholarship Program except that it is available to students with any category of disability in grades K-12. It is not available to pre-K students.<sup>2</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-28-24

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<sup>2</sup> See R.C. 3310.03 and 3310.033 (traditional Ed Choice), 3310.032 (Ed Choice Expansion), 3313.975 (Cleveland), 3310.41 (Autism), and 3310.52 (Jon Peterson), none in the bill.