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WHEREAS, Ohio has long been a pioneer in the realm of school choice; from the first convening of the Governor's Commission on Educational Choice in 1991; and

WHEREAS, The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program, which began in 1995, was among the first in the nation to offer private school tuition vouchers to students in a struggling urban district, WHEREAS, Ohio created a system of charter/community schools in 1997, giving parents statewide options for education without tuition; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Ohio Autism Scholarship Program was created, becoming the only voucher program in the United States to focus solely on the educational needs of children with autism; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship was created in 2005 to provide private school tuition vouchers to students in underperforming public schools; and

WHEREAS, through the operating budget in 2023, Governor DeWine made every student in Ohio eligible for Ohio EdChoice Scholarships; and

WHEREAS, traditional public school choice has been around since 1989, with open enrollment being offered among districts; and

WHEREAS, by observing National School Choice Week in Ohio, citizens can truly recognize that Ohio is front and center in the important work of providing all children access to a high-quality education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize January 21 – January 27, 2024, as

## NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

on this 21st day of January 2024.

Mike DeWine Governor

Jon Husted Lieutenant Governor