What is it like for parents to choose a public school in cities that provide multiple options? According to a survey of 4,000 public school parents in eight “high-choice” cities, including Cleveland, parents’ experiences vary widely. Cleveland was one of three cities where parents with a high school diploma or less were as likely to choose a non-neighborhood-based public school for their child as parents with a bachelor’s degree or more. Cleveland parents were more likely to report that the available schools provided a good fit for their child. Even so, Cleveland was second to the bottom on the percent of parents who reported that their city’s schools were getting better, and just 47% of parents reported that they had another good school option besides their current school. Compared to other cities, more parents in Cleveland reported transportation as a barrier to choosing a school. For the full report comparing all eight cities, visit crpe.org.
CLEVELAND

COMMON BARRIERS TO CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Available schools weren’t a good fit
- 37% Report Difficulty

Understanding which schools their child was eligible to attend
- 31% Report Difficulty

Difficult or confusing paperwork
- 9% Report Difficulty

Finding transportation for their child to and from school
- 32% Report Difficulty

Number of applications
- 9% Report Difficulty

Different application deadlines
- 11% Report Difficulty

 HOW PARENTS BECOME INFORMED ABOUT THEIR OPTIONS

Parents use on average 3 information sources

52% of parents say visiting the school is the most useful information source

22% Unable to get information needed to choose

HOW PARENTS GET THEIR CHILD TO SCHOOL

51% of parents report driving their child to and from school

TRIP TIME (EACH WAY) FOR CHILDREN IN NON-NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

00:17:00

Children in non-neighborhood public schools traveled longer (6 minutes longer than those in neighborhood public schools).

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT | crpe.org/publications/how-parents-experience-public-school-choice