

THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: HOW IT WORKS



The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program offers a **75 percent** income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois.

The Tax Credit Scholarship for K-12 students will cover up to 100% of private school tuition up to a maximum of the average Illinois cost to educate, which is roughly \$13,000.

Students with unique learning needs, including those who are gifted, English language learners, or those with special education qualifications, may be eligible to receive larger scholarships – up to double – roughly \$26,000.

Tax Credit Scholarships are need based and do not take academic performance into consideration.

For more information, visit:

<https://empowerillinois.org/students/how-do-i-apply>

2019-2020 TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN



Empower Illinois: Do I Qualify?

K-12 students from low-income families are eligible to receive a Tax Credit Scholarship. See the chart below for more details.

Before April 1, priority will be given to students who meet one of the following categories:

- Are members of a household whose previous year’s total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$45,510 for a family of 4);
- Reside within a focus district;
- Received a scholarship from a scholarship granting organization during the previous school year; or
- Are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be considered for scholarships, subject to availability of funding.

2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Chart

Household members	185% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$22,311	\$30,150	\$36,180
2	\$30,044	\$40,600	\$48,720
3	\$37,777	\$51,050	\$61,260
4	\$45,510	\$61,500	\$73,800
5	\$53,243	\$71,950	\$86,340
6	\$60,976	\$82,400	\$98,880
7	\$68,709	\$92,850	\$111,420
8	\$76,442	\$103,300	\$123,960

Note:

- If more than eight people in your household, for each additional person, add \$4,180 to the baseline FPL number for a family of 8 (\$41,320) and then multiply by 1.85, 2.5 and 3 to arrive at the corresponding income limits.
- Foster children are deemed to have a household income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level.

Empower Illinois Scholarships: Things You Should Know

We're excited to announce **January 15** as the official date for 2019-2020 tax credit scholarship application process to begin. **More details are coming soon. Stay tuned for helpful information about the application process.**

4 Things You Should Know *About 2019-2020 Applications*



1. Everyone must reapply.

- Those who received a scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year or are currently on the waitlist must apply to be considered for 2019-2020 scholarships.

2. The application is 2 steps.

- First, complete **Part One** on **January 15, 2019 at 7 p.m. CT**, which will timestamp your application. Your timestamp matters.
- Then, you will be notified when **Part Two** is available. You can complete this step whenever you are able but we encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.

3. Every family will have access to a new online portal.

- On the portal, you will find part two of the application and can track your application and award status.

4. Before April 1, some applicants receive priority.

- Per Illinois law, priority will be given to students who meet one of the following categories:
 - Received a scholarship from a scholarship granting organization during the previous school year;
 - Are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship;
 - Are members of a household whose total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$45,510 for a family of 4); or
 - Reside within a focus district.