

## The Investment in Kids Act

### State of Illinois

In August 2017, with bipartisan support, the House and Senate passed a comprehensive education funding bill that created the Invest in Kids Act. Under the Invest in Kids Act, income tax credits are given to taxpayers who make authorized contributions to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). The SGO's, in turn, provide scholarships for eligible Illinois students to attend non-public schools in Illinois. This program was put in place for a period of 5 years and may be renewed.

**All eligible families that are applying to Fenwick High School or currently have a student enrolled, should apply to the scholarship granting organization (SGO) and to Fenwick high School for financial assistance.**

#### What is a Scholarship Granting Organization?

- A Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is responsible for the following, among other things:
  - Receiving donations from individuals and corporations;
  - Receiving and processing scholarship applications from students/families; and
  - Distributing scholarships to eligible students/families in accordance with the law
  - SGOs must honor restrictions placed on donations from individuals, if any
  - Click [here](#) for approved State of Illinois SGOs

#### Who is eligible for a tax credit scholarship?

- Eligible students, living in Illinois, are members of a household whose federal adjusted gross income for the year as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue, does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level.
- Priority will be given to the following eligible students:
  - Household annual income for 2018 does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level
  - Reside within a focus district. See list of 2018-2019 focus districts [here](#)
  - Student who received a scholarship from an SGO during the previous school year
  - Student who has a sibling currently receiving a scholarship from an SGO
- All priority groups are treated equally for purposes of awarding scholarships.
- Applications are time-stamped by the SGO. Therefore, **it is important to apply as soon as the SGO application process opens.**
- Below is a table that provides Federal poverty levels for your information:

### 2018 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Chart

<u>Household members</u>	<u>185% FPL</u>	<u>250% FPL</u>	<u>300% FPL</u>
1	\$22,459	\$30,350	\$36,400
2	\$30,451	\$41,150	\$49,380
3	\$38,443	\$51,950	\$62,340
4	\$46,435	\$62,750	\$75,300
5	\$54,427	\$73,550	\$88,260
6	\$62,419	\$84,350	\$101,220
7	\$70,411	\$95,150	\$114,180
8	\$78,403	\$105,950	\$127,140
For each additional person add:	\$7,992	\$10,800	\$12,960

### **How do you apply for a tax credit scholarship?**

- Donors may make contributions and families can apply for scholarships beginning in January, 2019. Scholarships will be based on family income and size for a maximum based on the cost of educating a student in the public schools in the State of IL.
- The IL Department of Revenue will determine the statewide average operation expense per student among public schools for 2019-2020 school year by January, 15 2019. For 2018-19 it was \$12,973. \$12,973 was the maximum SGO award.
- Fenwick High School plans to work with Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders. However, families are free to apply to the SGO(s) of their choice
- [Empower](#) is expected to **open their application in January 15, 2019.**
- [Big Shoulders](#) is expected to **open their application January 22, 2019**
- Refer to the SGO's website for required documentation
- The Financial Assistance team at Fenwick High School will assist families with the application process

**Important: If your child receives a scholarship through the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), your Fenwick need-based award will be adjusted to reflect that award. If the SGO award is higher, you will not receive additional aid from Fenwick. If the Fenwick award is higher, we will award the difference to match the Fenwick award**