

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?

K-12 students from families with limited financial resources and income up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive a tax credit scholarship. Returning scholarship recipients can make up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Before April 1, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Members of a household whose previous year's total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$47,637 for a family of 4); OR
- Reside within a focus district. Focus districts are public school districts that have a school where at least one subgroup of students performs in the bottom 10% statewide or a graduation rate of less than 60%; OR -See list of focus districts [here](#)
- Received a scholarship from a scholarship granting organization during the previous school year; OR
- Siblings of a current scholarship recipient

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be considered for scholarship. Applications will generally be reviewed based on the reservation date-and-time stamp and awarded on a first come, first- served basis, subject to the availability of funds. Students can apply to multiple SGOs but can only accept one scholarship through this program.

How do you apply for a tax credit scholarship?

- Families can apply for scholarships beginning in January, 2020. Refer to the SGO website for instructions
- The IL Department of Revenue determined that the statewide average operation expense per student among public schools for 2020-2021 is \$13,763. For 2020-2021, \$13,763 is the maximum SGO award.
- Fenwick High School works with all State of IL approved SGOs in District 1
- [Empower](#) opens their application January 15, 2020 at 6:30pm
- [Big Shoulders](#) opens their application January 14, 2020 at 8:00am
- Refer to the SGO's website for required documentation

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