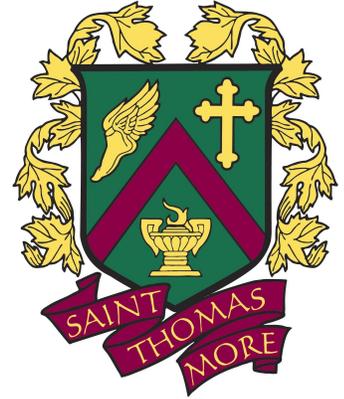


What You Need to Know About the “Invest in Kids” Tax Credit Scholarship

Through the “Invest in Kids Act,” Illinois K-12 students will have the opportunity to receive tax credit scholarships to attend private schools in Illinois beginning with the 2018/2019 school year. The scholarships offered through this program could cover **50 to 100 percent of tuition and eligible charges for next school year**. Below is more information about how to apply, and if your family is eligible to receive a scholarship.



Tax credit scholarships: Students grades K-12 have the opportunity to receive tax credit scholarships in the 2018/2019 school year.

Application process: Since this is a new program, application details are being finalized, and we will share them as soon as they are available. We will help you through it by answering your questions and helping families complete the application.

Help applying: You can get help applying for the scholarship in person by contacting your school or parish. Please contact Mr. Ian Blomberg at iblomberg@hs-stm.org or 352-7210.

Application deadline: You will need to apply to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) that manages the scholarship process. The six arch/dioceses in Illinois have agreed to work with an SGO called *Empower Illinois*. That organization may begin accepting applications as early as December. Scholarships will be awarded on a *first come, first serve basis starting January 2, 2018*, so it is very important that you apply early.

How to qualify: Eligibility to receive a scholarship is based on your family’s household income. You must earn less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level. For example, a family could receive a tax credit scholarship if they make less than \$73,800 a year as a family of four.

Scholarship amount: Your family could receive a scholarship that covers 50 to 100 percent of tuition and eligible charges for next school year. Students who have defined special needs, are English Language Learners, or are classified as Gifted and Talented could receive a higher scholarship amount.

See the chart below that shows how much you could receive to cover tuition based on your income for a family of four.

Household Income Per Year (Family of Four)	Eligible Scholarship Amount
Less than \$45,510	100 percent of tuition
\$45,510-\$61,500	75 percent of tuition
\$61,500-\$73,800	50 percent of tuition

Donations

Scholarship Granting Organizations: Tax credits work by allowing individuals or corporations to make donations to an independent Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) in return for a credit on their state taxes. Credits are for 75 percent of each donation up to \$100 million donated statewide, and a maximum of \$1 million per individual donation. Individuals (but not corporations) can designate their donation to an individual school (or subset of schools, such as Catholic schools).

How much of a tax credit do individuals and/or corporations receive?

Individuals and corporations that donate to SGOs may receive a credit off their Illinois state taxes equal to 75 percent of the donation.

How much money can be donated to an SGO for tax credit scholarships?

Donations are capped at \$1 million per taxpayer per year. Total tax credits are capped at \$75 million per year statewide, which equates to \$100 million in donations and scholarships.

Can donations be directed to a certain school or individual?

Individuals may direct donations to a particular school or subset of schools, but NOT to an individual student or group of students. Corporate donors cannot restrict their donations at all.

How do individuals direct their donations to a certain school or subset of schools?

The process for reserving tax credits and designating a particular school or subset of schools is still being finalized by the Illinois Department of Revenue and the SGOs. Further information will be made available when these processes have been published.

What is the process for making a donation?

Beginning January 2, 2018, donors can indicate the amount they want to donate and reserve the corresponding tax credits through the Illinois Department of Revenue's (IDOR) website. Donors will need the name of the SGO and region number to reserve their tax credit. It is recommended that donors register their account now on the IDOR website at MyTaxIllinois (www.mytax.illinois.gov) as an account must be created before a donation can be made. The Department of Revenue will grant tax credits on a first come first served basis. Donating individuals and corporations then have 60 days from the date they receive the credit authorization certificate to donate that indicated amount to the SGO of their choice.

After donating, the individual or corporation receives a receipt from the SGO, indicating the donation was made, which then generates the corresponding tax credit. If a donor fails to make all or a portion of a donation payment to the SGO by the deadline, they shall not be entitled to a certificate of receipt for any portion of the donation.

To learn more, please visit cdop.org/why-choose-catholic-schools/tax-credit-scholarships/ or simply visit the Diocesan website at cdop.org and **select Catholic Education**. You can also contact Mr. Russ Courter, Director of Diocesan Parish and School Finances (rcourter@cdop.org) or Dr. Susan Stolt, Associate Superintendent of Diocesan Schools (sstolt@cdop.org) or call them at (309) 671-1550.