



**EMPOWER ILLINOIS' CHILDREN.**

## **OUR MISSION.**

We expand quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois.





**91%**

OF RECOGNIZED  
PRIVATE SCHOOLS

**31,000**

ILLINOIS  
STUDENTS

## **A POWERFUL ORGANIZATION.**

Empower Illinois is the state's largest and most comprehensive scholarship granting organization. We accept more donations, receive more applications, and award more scholarships than any other scholarship granting organization in the state.

And, unlike most scholarship granting organizations, we provide scholarships to schools of all denominations, including both secular and non-secular schools.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY.**

Thanks to the Invest in Kids Act, a law we wrote and fought to pass, more children than ever before have the chance at the quality education they deserve.



## AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM.

In 2017, Empower Illinois wrote and then secured passage of the Invest in Kids Act. This historic law — the first of its kind in Illinois — transforms lives by **providing up to \$100,000,000 for K-12 scholarships to the low income and working class children in Illinois** who need them most.

Scholarships are **funded through private donations** to scholarship granting organizations, like Empower Illinois, which administer the application and scholarship granting process

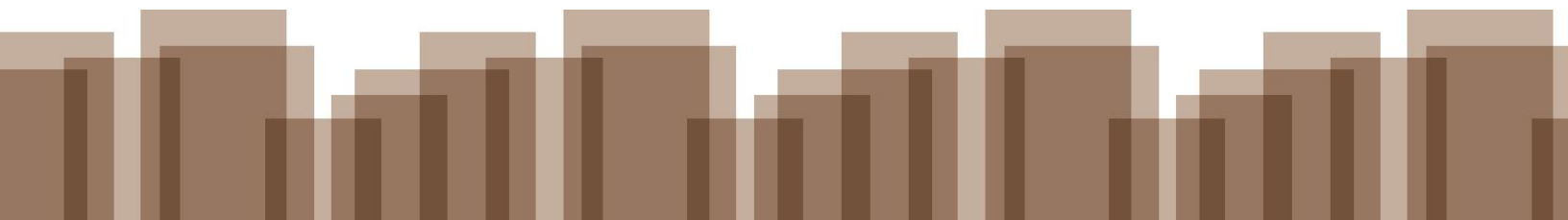
## A TAX CREDIT, TOO.

Donors who fund scholarships through a scholarship granting organization receive an Illinois income tax credit worth 75% of their gift up to \$1 million. So a donor who gives \$1,333,333 receives a tax credit of \$1 million on their Illinois income tax.



## **OVERWHELMING DEMAND.**

**Within 24 hours of  
Empower Illinois'  
scholarship program  
going live, more than  
30,000 students  
applied.**



# HOW IT WORKS.

## 1. Students apply.

Qualifying low-income and working class families — those within 300% of the Federal Poverty Level — may apply for an Empower Illinois scholarship to private K-12 schools of their choice. Students must be accepted to that school before they can receive scholarship funds.

## 2. Donors give.

Individual donors may restrict their scholarship gifts to a single school or a group of schools. They may also give unrestricted dollars which are distributed to students on a “first come, first served” basis. Corporate gifts are unrestricted but can be designated for disbursement in one of five geographical regions. After making their gift, donors receive a tax credit worth 75% of their gift or \$1 million (whichever is less) on their state income tax liability for that year.

## 3. Scholarships are awarded; lives are changed.

From January to April, priority is given to students who: are members of a household whose previous year’s total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level; or who reside within a focus district and whose household income is within 300% of the federal poverty level. Focus districts are determined by the Illinois State Board of Education.





**SERIOUS IMPACT.**

**A gift to Empower  
Illinois provides a  
student a lifeline to a  
brighter future.**





# **A FAILING STATUS QUO.**

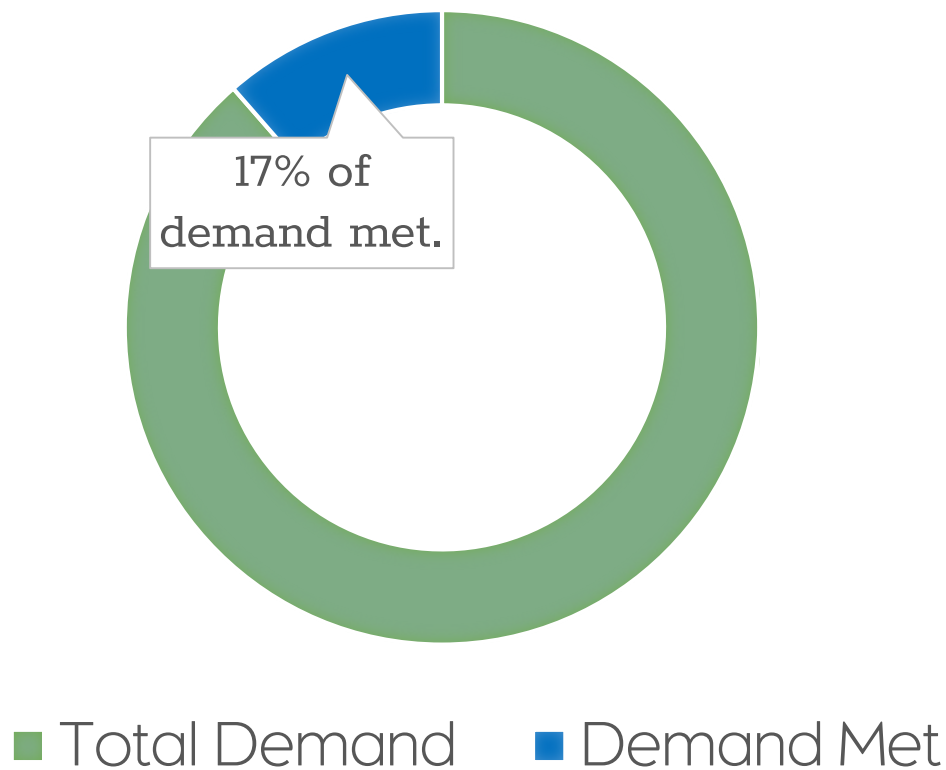
One in four young people between 17 and 24 does not have a high school diploma.

Only a third of all Illinois fourth and eighth graders are proficient in math and reading.

# **A PROVEN RESULT.**

Students who receive personalized instruction outperform 98% of those who do not.

# A CRITICAL NEED.



While demand is overwhelming, supply is lagging.

More than 32,000 low-income and working class students have applied for a scholarship. But, at current funding levels, only 5,500 students (or 17% of those that applied) can be served.

Your gift will make an immediate impact, delivering scholarships and educational choice to Illinois students with the greatest need.

Every student deserves  
their chance at a  
quality education.

**MAKE SURE IT  
COUNTS.**





Learn more today at  
[EmpowerIllinois.org](https://EmpowerIllinois.org).