

HOW IT WORKS



STUDENTS APPLY

Low-income and working-class families within 300% of the Federal Poverty Level apply for a scholarship to a private K-12 school of their choice.



DONORS GIVE

Individual and corporate donors make contributions to qualified scholarship granting organizations who then fund a scholarship. In turn, donors are eligible to receive a 75% state tax credit.



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED & LIVES ARE CHANGED

SGOs, like Empower Illinois, award scholarships to families who meet the income requirements, based on available funds at their school of choice.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS



Empower Illinois is the state's largest, most comprehensive SGO. We have successfully raised the most donations, received the greatest number of applications, and awarded more scholarships than any other SGO in the state.

We serve approximately 91% of Illinois recognized private schools in their processing of donations, scholarship awards and program compliance, we also assist students and their families through the scholarship process.

Empower Illinois' mission is to expand quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois.

CONTACT US

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TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS



\$100,000,000 IN K-12 SCHOLARSHIPS

INVEST IN KIDS ACT



In 2017, bipartisan lawmakers passed the *Invest in Kids Act*. This historic law – the first of its kind in Illinois – transforms lives by providing up to \$100 million in scholarships for children from low-income and working-class families in Illinois, while also providing landmark funding for public schools. Empower Illinois' scholarships provide parents with a way to help their children find success!

\$100,000,000 in K-12
scholarships

Scholarships are funded through private donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), like Empower Illinois, who then administer the application and scholarship process. Donations to the scholarship program are eligible for a 75% State Tax Credit.

DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL

REQUEST A LETTER ID

Donors can begin the process by registering with mytax.illinois.gov. Approximately 10 business days later, you will receive your Letter ID by mail.

ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT

Once you have your Letter ID, return to mytax.illinois.gov and activate your account.

RESERVE YOUR TAX CREDIT

Beginning January 1, donors may reserve their tax credit on a first-come, first served basis. Once you reserve your credit, you have 60 days, or by December 31, whichever comes first, to make a donation to Empower Illinois.

DONATE TO EMPOWER ILLINOIS

Visit empowerillinois.org/donate to complete your donation. Individual donors may designate his or her donation to a favorite school or network of schools. Corporate donors may designate their donation to a region of the state.

INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% tax credit for the amount of their gift, up to \$1 million. In addition, any portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to five years. Therefore, the tax credit is incentive for a donor to increase the amount they donate in tuition assistance. Donors can **QUADRUPLE** their impact with no extra money out-of-pocket.

For a couple with a \$5,000 income tax liability

John and Jane **DO NOT** give through Empower Illinois.

They donate \$1,000 to their favorite school, earn \$0 in tax credits.

John and Jane owe \$5,000 in income tax to the State of Illinois.

They are out of pocket \$6,000.

For a couple with a \$5,000 income tax liability

John and Jane give to their favorite school through Empower Illinois.

They donate \$4,000 via Empower Illinois, earning \$3,000 in tax credits.

John and Jane owe \$2,000 in income tax to the State of Illinois.

They are out of pocket \$6,000.