

Prior to 2009, many Indiana households could not consider the option of enrolling their child(ren) in a private school for grades K-12 because they simply could not afford it. They had no choice but to enroll their child(ren) in the local public school — even if they desired a different academic environment or journey for their kids. But, in 2009, Indiana passed legislation to create the School Scholarship Tax Credit Program in order to facilitate choice for these households. Administered by a state-approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), scholarships are awarded to students from income-eligible households enrolled in tuition-based schools that are eligible to participate. The funds used for these awards are raised from gifts donated by individuals and business who, in return, receive state tax credits.

For more information regarding regulations, visit : <http://www.doe.in.gov/choice/school-scholarships>

The Institute for Quality Education (IQE) is the largest Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). IQE partners with the state, SCHOOLS and DONORS (individual or business) to raise funds, secure tax credits and award scholarships to approved APPLICANTS.

Individuals or companies in Indiana are eligible to receive a state tax credit equal to fifty-percent (50%) of the amount donated. Since IQE is a 501c3, these donations will be eligible for a federal tax deduction as well. Donations may be restricted to support scholarship awards to eligible students at one of our partner schools. The majority of donations are solicited by the schools through various fundraising efforts that IQE supports.

Since 2009, IQE has awarded over \$10 million to almost 11,000 Hoosier students!

Working in concert with IQE, the school manages fundraising and application responsibilities. Each year, households interested in securing a tax credit scholarship must apply. The school supports this process using one of the following application submission methods:

- 1.) The school will provide IQE with all of the necessary applicant data and IQE will email the applicant's household to confirm accuracy and desire to apply.
- 2.) The school will provide the applicant's household with a link to an online application for completion. Upon submission, IQE will require the school to certify enrollment prior to processing.

In order to be considered for a tax credit scholarship, the student applicant must be:

- Enrolled in one of our partner schools
- Between the ages of 5-22
- From a household with a total annual income of 200% or less of the qualifying USDA guidelines for the Free/Reduced Meal Program. The income thresholds change each year, so visit the website for the current year thresholds. Also, to understand income verification requirements and how we verify, please see the page titled "How Does an Applicant Verify Income Eligibility?"