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Nearly 30,000 Students Apply for Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program

INDIANAPOLIS, September 16, 2014 – Indiana is home to the nation's fastest growing school voucher program, which gives Hoosier working-class families the freedom to choose a school that works best for their child. For the fourth year in a row, the number of applicants has grown significantly.

This school year, 29,437 students applied to participate in the school voucher program. This number is 9,628 more students than the total number of voucher recipients last year (19,809). Schools are also responding to the demand for educational choice by Hoosier families. 316 schools in Indiana are approved to accept voucher students this year, an increase of three schools over last year.

"The voucher program means so much to us," said Joan Woods, Indianapolis parent and choice scholarship recipient. "It has really enabled us to choose a school that best fits my daughter's character and performance needs."

"The continued growth of Indiana's voucher program is proof that Hoosier parents want school choice," said Betsy Wiley, president of the Institute for Quality Education. "Access to a school that best meets the educational needs of a student should not be determined by where they live or family income."

"The voucher program not only positively affected my son's educational experience, but also gave me the means as a single parent to choose the school I wanted him to attend," said Evansville parent Laura Koewler.

In Indiana, school vouchers for grades 1-8 are capped at \$4,800 per student. This amount is more than \$1,800 less than the estimated average per-pupil funding of \$6,632 provided by the state to Indiana's public schools last year. "The choice scholarship program not only provides parents and families access to a top quality education for their child, it also continues to be a sound investment for Indiana's taxpayers," said Wiley.

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About Institute for Quality Education: IQE, formerly known as the Educational Choice Charitable Trust and School Choice Indiana, is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring all Hoosier children have quality educational opportunities. To learn more about IQE, visit www.i4qed.org.