



# AN INTRODUCTION

## EMPOWER ILLINOIS AND THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### 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 annually in scholarships for kids from low-income and working-class families in Illinois. Empower Illinois scholarships provide parents with a way to help their kids find success!

**\$210,000,000** 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**.

### EMPOWER ILLINOIS

Empower Illinois is the state's largest and 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 all recognized Illinois private schools in their processing of donations, scholarship awards, and program compliance. We also assist students and their families through the scholarship process in an effort to help kids access their best fit school.

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

### 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 scholarships. In turn, donors are eligible to receive a 75% state tax credit.



#### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED, LIVES CHANGED

Scholarships are awarded to families who meet the income requirements, based on available funds at the school of their choice.