Dear Friends,

It is sometimes hard to believe that the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program is already five years old. Not so very long ago this program was an improbable idea with immense potential—a new tax credit scholarship program without a single dollar raised or scholarship awarded. What we did have, all of us in this vital work, was the fundamental belief that all kids deserve access to an excellent education, regardless of their ZIP Code or family income.

I am proud of how far we have come since those early days—building an organization, team, coalition, and community that has come together to make what was once improbable quite real indeed.

Thanks to the generosity and leadership of this amazing community of supporters, we set new records again in 2022, raising more $51.3 million dollars and awarding more than 7,000 tax credit scholarships. This data is impressive to be sure, but what is most inspiring are the stories they represent of students and families whose lives are changed for the better thanks to these scholarships. As one family shared:

“It means the world to me being a single parent and being able to provide my child with the best education possible. Without a tax credit scholarship I would need multiple jobs and child care. Thank you simply isn’t enough.”

2022 marked another first for the Invest in Kids Act—a first-ever stand-alone bill (House Bill 4126) that made improvements to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and was passed unanimously in both the House and Senate. This historic moment was possible because heroic lawmakers listened and responded to the voices of students and families, school principals and teachers, donors and civic leaders—each of you reading this letter—who are the true champions of this growing coalition.

Your leadership, your generosity, your voice makes THE difference—it is the reason this program is not just a good idea with immense potential, but a true success with so much more to achieve. This program, and the many thousands of students and their families who benefit from it are counting on all of us again this year to set even new records—and most importantly—to protect and expand the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program for them and generations to come.

Onward,

Anthony Holter
President
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>EMPOWER MISSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>EMPOWER HISTORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>EMPOWER LEADERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>EMPOWER 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FIVE YEARS OF INVEST IN KIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>BY THE NUMBERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>EMPOWER STUDENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>EMPOWER FAMILIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>EMPOWER SCHOOLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>EMPOWER DONORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>EMPOWER ADVOCACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>EMPOWER IN THE NEWS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©2022 EMPOWER ILLINOIS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. EMPOWER ILLINOIS®, EMPOWERXCHANGE®, AND THE SPIROGRAPH LOGO ARE THE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF EMPOWER ILLINOIS.
EMPOWER MISSION
The Empower Illinois mission is to expand quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois.
The dog ran away

9

The dog ran away

9

The dog ran away

9
Empower Illinois has a big, bold mission rooted in the simple belief that every child should have access to high quality education options. Over the years, our team members have devoted themselves to this mission through classroom work, policy research, and scholarship granting. Each of these efforts, over many years and under numerous iterations, has become the core of Empower Illinois.

Knowing Illinois and its students are capable of incredible things, Empower Illinois has a history of helping students receive their best-fit education. In 2016, we advocated for and passed the Untapped Potential Act, and in 2017, we advocated for and passed the Accelerated Placement Act.

Our largest accomplishment once again came through cooperation, as education leaders across the state united to improve the public school funding formula and expand options for all Illinoisans. Through the bipartisan passage of Illinois’ Invest in Kids Act in 2017, Illinois’ Tax Credit Scholarship Program uses private dollars to fund K-12 scholarships for low-income and working-class students, whose education options were previously limited by household income.

With the successful passing of the Invest in Kids Act, Empower Illinois became a statewide Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) to serve Illinois’ children. As the leading SGO in our state, Empower Illinois supports schools in their tax credit fundraising efforts, while assisting students and their families through the scholarship process.

When the Tax Credit Scholarship Program launched, there was no platform designed to accept donations, issue scholarship awards, and remain in compliance with the Invest in Kids Act regulations. As early demand for the program skyrocketed, our team recognized the need to build a custom, transparent, and user-friendly solution: EmpowerXChange®. In August 2021, the EmpowerXChange’s revolutionary and novel capabilities secured a technology United States Patent.

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program continues to face organized opposition and campaigns to end the program have been launched twice in the last three years. Empower Illinois not only protected the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program on each of those occasions, but also secured a one-year program extension and unanimously passed the first ever standalone bill to improve the program.

With an upcoming vote to secure the Tax Credit Scholarship Program’s future, Empower Illinois, families, school leaders, and community leaders stand united to ensure all kids can find and attend their best fit school today, tomorrow, and for decades to come.
As the fifth year of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program began, Empower Illinois prepared for what was to be a remarkable year. With the launch of the 2022-2023 application, over 31,000 families got in line for scholarships to their best-fit school. Advocates from the TCS Community joined together to ask lawmakers to pass legislation that expanded the program to better serve the families in line for a tax credit scholarship.

Throughout the year, generous program donors envisioned new initiatives to help families most in need. With their renewed support, Empower Illinois broke annual fundraising and awarding records.

As the year drew to a close, program supporters asked lawmakers for their help in removing the sunset, preserving scholarships for more years to come.
“Empower Illinois is essential to our children’s educational future. My children have been given a chance they otherwise would not have had and there are no words to describe knowing that they are receiving the best opportunity to improve the rest of their lives.”

- Empower Family
CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF INVESTING IN ILLINOIS KIDS
& LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE
2018

Following the 2017 passage of the Invest in Kids Act, Empower Illinois quickly got to work preparing for the 2018 program launch. In January, thousands of students and families throughout the state began the application process for K-12 private school scholarships for the first time. After just one evening, more than 33,000 students were in line for a tax credit scholarship with Empower Illinois.

In February, Empower Illinois awarded its first ever tax credit scholarship. Over the course of the year, more than 5,450 scholarships followed.

With $61.4 million, including $45.2 million raised by Empower Illinois, Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship program broke the national record for the most money raised of any first-year tax credit scholarship program.

2019

In the spring of 2019, Empower Illinois led the fight to protect education opportunities for Illinois’ kids. When opponents sought to cut and cap the Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Empower Illinois supported its broad coalition in daily advocacy trips to Springfield.

To prepare for the Fall 2019-Spring 2020 reservation and application, Empower Illinois launched the EmpowerXChange® portals for schools and families. With custom-built technology and tailored interfaces, the EXC portal offers a user-friendly design that supports thousands of Empower Illinois’ stakeholders.

Thanks to the generosity of every day Illinoisans who care about quality education options, Empower Illinois awarded its 10,000th scholarship in September 2019.
In February of 2020, the Empower Illinois team grew with the addition of our in-house Customer Success Team. This marked a major milestone for Empower Illinois— all of our team members worked together in one office.

As the COVID-19 pandemic surged, the Empower Illinois team remained committed to serving Illinois’ families most in need. We continued to process donations, review applications, and award scholarships to students across the state uninterrupted. Generous program donors, too, played a crucial role by ensuring that scholarships continued to be funded, despite facing potential economic challenges of their own.

In April, a We Ask America poll showed high demand for the landmark, bipartisan Invest in Kids Act, with 54% of voters support the bipartisan Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program, including 72% of Black voters, 65% of Latino voters and 61% of Democratic voters.

EmpowerXChange®, Empower Illinois’ custom technology platform that processes our donations and applications, secured a United States Patent and was nominated as a Top 100 Finalist for the 20th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards.

Virginia Walden Ford, one of the country’s leading advocates for parent empowerment, visited St. Patrick’s Catholic School and the State Capitol in Springfield to share the importance of providing low-income and working-class families with quality education options.
2022 was a record-breaking year for Empower Illinois, as we raised more dollars and issued more scholarships than ever before.

In April, Empower Illinois helped lead the charge to unanimously pass the first standalone bill on the Invest in Kids Act, House Bill (HB) 4126. HB4126 created two improvements to the law, year-over-year scholarship priority and partial scholarships, to provide greater education stability for families and increase scholarship access.

In September, we hosted a breakfast to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the Invest in Kids Act and issuing 36,000 scholarships. We were joined by Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Representative Curtis J. Tarver II, and Leader Lisa Hernandez, as well as our speakers, Betania Demisse from Saint Ignatius College Prep and Maria Silvia Uribe from Lycée Français de Chicago.

The success of the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program would not be possible without partnership from all corners of the state. Empower Illinois is thankful to the families, schools, communities, and donors who have supported our work over the past five years.
IN 2022, EMPOWER ILLINOIS SET A NEW ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AND AWARDING RECORD, MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR YET.

- **7,018** Scholarships
- **31,948** Kids in line
- **$51,304,667** Raised over 95% directly funds scholarships
- **$4,000** Median donation
- **$1,000** Most common donation
- **$6,579** Average award amount
- **442** Schools with awards
- **$8,554** Average tuition cost
- **$45,046** Average family household income of scholarship recipients
- **100%** Based on need
- **67%** Of scholarships go to families who make 185% or less of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- **19%** Of scholarships go to families who make between 186%-250% of the FPL
- **14%** Of scholarships go to families who make between 251%-400% of the FPL

EMPOWER ILLINOIS’ SCHOLARSHIPS ALIGN WITH THE STATE’S STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.2%
Asian: 3.1%
Black/African American: 16.6%
Hispanic: 34%
Multiracial: 3.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0.1%
White: 46.4%
DEMAND FOR TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS IN ILLINOIS REMAINS OVERWHELMING, TOPPING OVER $210 MILLION. CURRENT FUNDING ALLOWED ONLY 22% OF APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP IN THE FALL 2022-SPRING 2023 SCHOOL YEAR.

These numbers underscore the demand for the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and speak to the power of quality education options. Empower Illinois will continue to protect and hopefully expand the Tax Credit Scholarship Program, so each of the 31,948 kids in line for a scholarship can receive an education that best fits their needs.

**WHY FAMILIES APPLY**

1. Wanted a school with higher academic quality
2. Wanted a school with religious/faith based instruction
3. Wanted a school with character/values instruction
4. Wanted a safer school
5. Wanted a school with smaller class sizes

---

**The Saldan Family’s Scholarship Story**

Thank you for accepting the scholarship application from our family for the upcoming school year. We are recent immigrants from Ukraine. In 2021, we moved back to the Ukraine for a while. It was a good opportunity for our son to get better at his violin playing skills. He had studied at the State Music Lyceum in Ukraine, majoring in violin. This is a unique school with an outstanding music program. In March 2022, we returned to Chicago due to martial law and war in Ukraine. One of us lost our previous job and is currently unemployed. Financial assistance is very important for us now, as our family is facing financial difficulties.
70% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level

17% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level

13% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

70% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level

17% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level

13% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

**EMPOWER ILLINOIS 2022 IMPACT REPORT**

---

**REGION 1**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS**

3,761

**TOTAL NUMBER OF Awardees**

$30,562,996

**DONATED**

208

**SCHOOLS**

**MOST AWARDS BY CITY**

CHICAGO  PALATINE
CICERO  MAYWOOD
SKOKIE  WHEELING
BERWYN  DES PLAINES
EVANSTON  MOUNT PROSPECT
NORTHBROOK  GLENVIEW

**ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
<th>PERCENT OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Socioeconomic Status**

- 70% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 17% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 13% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

**Number of Awards**

- 0-5
- 6-20
- 21-40
- 41-89
- 90+

**Grand Total**

100%
3,673
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
1,187
TOTAL NUMBER OF Awardees
$9,709,814
DONATED
92
SCHOOLS
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY
DUPAGE
LAKE
WINNEBAGO
MCHENRY
KANE
KENDALL
LEE
DEKALB
STEPHENSON
BOONE

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
<th>PERCENT OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

- 63% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 21% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 16% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

63% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
Number of Awards

0-5
6-20
21-40
41-89
90+

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
<th>PERCENT OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRAND TOTAL 100%

2,195 TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
851 TOTAL NUMBER OF Awardees
$5,227,505 DONATED
59 SCHOOLS

MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY
PEORIA
WILL
KANKAKEE
CRUNDY
TAZEWELL
LASALLE

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

- 64% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 19% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 17% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level
Number of Awards
- 0-5
- 6-20
- 21-40
- 41-89
- 90+

Ethnic/Racial Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total: 100%

Socioeconomic Status

- 64% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 20% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 16% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level
- 9% of scholarships go to families who make more than 400% of the federal poverty level
Number of Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>0-5</th>
<th>6-20</th>
<th>21-40</th>
<th>41-89</th>
<th>90+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
<th>PERCENT OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRAND TOTAL: 100%

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

- 50% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 21% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 29% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS: 465
TOTAL NUMBER OF Awardees: 917
$2,271,959 DONATED
38 SCHOOLS
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY
EFFINGHAM          PERRY
ST. CLAIR          WILLIAMSON
MADISON            CLINTON
MONROE             CHRISTIAN
JASPER             MONTGOMERY
JACKSON            SHELBY
RICHLAND           RANDOLPH

50% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
21% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
29% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level
DONOR ADVISED SCHOLARSHIPS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS GRATEFUL FOR DONORS WHO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE TO ILLINOIS FAMILIES

RISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For low-income and working-class families without a connection to private schools, learning about private school options and securing funds to pay tuition is not easy. The RISE Scholarship Program supports these families by offering scholarships to students who previously attended public schools and want to switch to their best-fit private school. The RISE Scholarship Program provides students with financial assistance up to $5,000 per school year, if they qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Participating schools work to promote the RISE Scholarship opportunity and select qualifying students. Scholarship funding is generously provided and designated by anonymous donors who believe in expanding private school options to new students. Critical to expanding education opportunities, the RISE Scholarship Program also cultivates school-based advocacy. This scholarship and advocacy-integrated model connects students and schools with the community and governmental leaders who can learn from the students’ experience to advance and scale policy innovation kids need and deserve.

279 SCHOLARSHIPS
6% RENEWING STUDENTS
39% NEW STUDENTS

44 SCHOOLS

$603,912 IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

$32,118 AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME, FAMILY OF FOUR

UNITED IN LOVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (UIL)

Designed to support students in emergency situations, the United in Love Scholarship provides students with a scholarship equal to their qualifying tax credit scholarship. Schools identify students who may be in need of emergency funds, facing severe financial hardship, or did not have their tax credit scholarship renewed. Scholarship funding is provided and designated by donors who seek to provide students with educational stability.

245 SCHOLARSHIPS

9 SCHOOLS

$361,795 IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

$34,242 AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME, FAMILY OF FOUR
EMPOWER FAMILIES

97% of families were ‘extremely satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ about their decision to pursue a tax credit scholarship at their best-fit school.

MONIQUE H., MOTHER

I wasn’t sure how I would have paid for private school without the scholarship. I told my daughter we should keep in mind the scholarship is not guaranteed, and she’ll have to cut back on some of her activities if we have to pay tuition. When we got the news she received a scholarship, I was just so overwhelmed. I wish more people knew about these programs that can help people go to the school of their choice. I tell my friends and family this program is just amazing.

LORENA M., MOTHER

As immigrants, the opportunity to have a quality education brought us renewed vision that the young people in my family can contribute to this beautiful country, and we need them well prepared for the challenges ahead. Thank you so much for opening the doors, not only for my son, but for all the students who need the support and opportunities to contribute to this country with the best of their abilities.

LUI S M., FATHER

My family decided that my daughter should attend a Catholic school because we did not want her to have a tough time at school. My aunt, my uncle, my girlfriend, and grandmother all pitched in to help with tuition. Although it was hard to scrape the money together, it was worth it because it gave her a great support system. For anyone considering donating, please know the opportunity to receive a scholarship could really help turn someone’s life around.

VERONICA J., MOTHER

It was a very special moment when I was informed that we received an Empower Illinois scholarship. Thanks to your help, my daughter was able to finish elementary school at St. James Lutheran School. We are very grateful and we encourage people to seek help so that our children have opportunities because every child deserves a good education.

RICH G., FATHER

My wife did a lot of research looking for any source of financial aid, and thankfully we found the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. We did not receive scholarships the first two years we applied, but we kept trying, and this past school year received awards. It was such a blessing. It’s been amazing. We are determined to give our daughters the best education possible, and we are so grateful that the Tax Credit Scholarship Program has allowed us to do that.

SYMARA M., MOTHER

It was such a relief to know my child will be able to attend her first-choice school and I won’t have to cover everything. The school staff has really embraced us like family, too. We know she will be in her element. Our children deserve to go to a school that will allow them to thrive. I am so eternally grateful for people who show they value education by contributing to this program, and every dollar helps our students.
**EMPOWER SCHOOLS**

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS FORTUNATE TO PARTNER WITH **92%** OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS TO OFFER APPLICANTS DIVERSE, QUALITY EDUCATION OPTIONS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</strong></th>
<th><strong>443</strong></th>
<th><strong>437</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOOLS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SCHOOLS VISITED IN 2022</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENTS APPLIED TO</strong> <strong>598</strong> <strong>SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **$6,579** | **67%** |
| **AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT** | **STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR 100% AWARD** |

**2X MORE** MONEY WAS DONATED TO FUND K-8 SCHOLARSHIPS THAN HIGH SCHOOL

| **249** | **94** |
| **SCHOOLS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP** | **SCHOOLS RAISED ENOUGH FUNDS FOR THEIR ENTIRE WAITLIST** |

| **9** | **31** | **10** |
| **AVERAGE AWARDEES PER SCHOOL** | **AVERAGE APPLICANTS PER SCHOOL** | **AVERAGE DONATIONS PER SCHOOL** |

EMPOWER ILLINOIS 2022 IMPACT REPORT
EMPOWER DONORS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS FORTUNATE TO PARTNER WITH 92% OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS TO OFFER APPLICANTS DIVERSE, QUALITY EDUCATION OPTIONS.

3,553 TOTAL DONORS
1,221 NEW DONORS
$14,440 AVERAGE DONATION
$1,000 MOST COMMON DONATION
$4,000 MEDIAN DONATION

22% of donors live in Chicago but donated to a school outside of Chicago

55% of donors gave to a school in the same city that they reside in

21% of donors gave to more than one school
94% of donors indicated they planned to give to the TCS Program again.

49% of returning donors indicated that they increased their donation to the TCS Program.

83% of donors indicated the TCS Program allowed them to increase their donations to schools where they were previously giving.
MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Through partnerships with schools and at the wishes of individual donors, Empower Illinois is proud to have supported nine matching gift programs this year, which provided an even greater number of students with scholarships.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

In the beginning of the year, the Archdiocese of Chicago and a group of generous donors partnered with Empower Illinois for a 2:1 matching gift challenge. The match sought to engage new donors to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and raise money early in the year, so families would have early notice about their children’s scholarships.

113 SCHOOLS
384 DONORS
1,494 AWARDS
105 NEW DONORS

$9,506,772 TOTAL CONTRIBUTED
$2,599,999 RAISED
$5,199,999 MATCHED
$1,706,774 EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

REGIONS 4 & 5 MATCH

In the spring of 2022, an anonymous donor sponsored a matching challenge for select Catholic schools in Regions 4 and 5. The match strategically engaged previously funded schools to cultivate their independent development skills and grow a new donor base.

63 SCHOOLS
217 DONORS
365 AWARDS
38 NEW DONORS

$1,728,000 TOTAL CONTRIBUTED
$630,000 RAISED
$630,000 MATCHED
$468,000 EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH
LAKE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

In the spring of 2022, a generous donor sponsored a 1:1 matching gift challenge for high quality, independent schools. The LMAIS schools worked to leverage the opportunity to engage their school communities in raising significant scholarship donations.

25 SCHOOLS
59 DONORS
69 AWARDS
24 NEW DONORS

$1,824,832 TOTAL CONTRIBUTED
$666,666 RAISED
$666,666 MATCHED
$491,500 EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

SHARING OUR GIFTS

A group of generous donors from the Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier parish community created a 1:1 matching gift challenge to clear the scholarship waitlist at their sharing parish, St. Thomas of Canterbury School. With 95% of students’ families living below the poverty line and 37 home languages spoken, St. Thomas of Canterbury School is committed to educating and embracing students from around the world and preparing them to be leaders.

39 DONORS
150 AWARDS
29 NEW DONORS

$805,300 TOTAL CONTRIBUTED
$370,000 RAISED
$370,000 MATCHED
$65,300 EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

LOCAL MATCHING PROGRAMS

Matching gift challenges spark involvement and typically result in extremely successful school-based fundraising. Inspired by the success of early matching gift programs, local donors created five additional school community-based matches to continue growing the impact of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

$417,800 TOTAL RAISED
113 SCHOOLS
63 AWARDS
66 DONORS
41 NEW DONORS

EMPOWER DONORS
FIGHTING FOR THEIR FUTURE

SCHOLARSHIP

It would be helpful for the parents so they won't have to pay that much tuition.

To have a more better education in catholic school.

This way the students focus and have a less chance of dropping out and more students can graduate.
FIGHTING FOR THEIR FUTURE

“I currently have two students on a tax credit scholarship from Empower Illinois. I have one student that has graduated as a recipient of the scholarship and is currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois. There is no way that I would be able to do this without the assistance of these scholarships. For my family and families like ourselves we absolutely need support to remove the sunset for the scholarships.”

- Adriana Garcia, Champaign, IL, WMAY Radio

IF THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WERE TO SUNSET

82% of families say they could no longer attend best-fit, specialized school or would have to take on additional jobs.

64% of schools reported their families would be unable to attend, or would struggle to find alternative scholarships.
EMPOWER ADVOCACY

Engaging communities and empowering voices of families, kids, and educators drives Empower Illinois’ work. Our team recognizes that those most impacted by the life-changing potential of a tax credit scholarship must be central to any discussion about the program’s impact and future. We are proud to have supported these critical perspectives through community nights, messages to legislators, and op-eds published across the state.

In the spring, Empower Illinois and Illinois’ Tax Credit Scholarship Community pursued legislation to improve Illinois’ Tax Credit Scholarship Program. This broad coalition of supporters and advocates helped advance House Bill 4126—the first-ever stand-alone bill on the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program in Illinois history. Even more remarkable, these changes unanimously passed the Illinois House 114-0 and the Illinois Senate 55-0, a near impossible feat. With 42 Democratic and 23 Republican bill sponsors, the legislation also continued the tradition of strong bipartisan support for education investments seen when the Invest in Kids Act passed originally in 2017. The changes provide two important improvements: (1) help students remain in their best-fit school each year thereby providing stability and reliability that will help families make critical educational and financial decisions; and (2) enable schools to offer partial scholarships to families in income tiers above 185% of the federal poverty level, which expands the need-based, tiered scholarship distribution model, while also protecting scholarships for students in the lowest-income tier.

In the fall, Empower Illinois coordinated families, schools, donors, and community groups across Illinois to visit Springfield and launch the #RemoveTheSunset campaign. When the Invest in Kids Act passed, it was a pilot program that is set to expire or sunset at the end of 2023. Empower Illinois and the broad, diverse, and authentic coalition that makes up the TCS Community are ready to fight on behalf of this program to make it permanent or extend the program. Thousands of families rely on tax credit scholarships to help their kids access their best-fit schools, and making the program permanent will create stability for current scholarship families and ensure that equitable education opportunities continue to grow for students across the state. As we enter 2023, removing the Invest in Kids Act sunset is a top priority.
Empower Illinois made local, national, and state headlines in 2022 as the media put a spotlight on the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Throughout the year, the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Empower Illinois were mentioned in over 235 local and national news stories. Advocates for the program penned op-eds, local radio stations highlighted participating schools that benefited from TCS, and major TV stations showcased Illinois families looking for quality education options.

**WORD FROM THE WEB**

**State Senator Andrew Chesney**

Enacted in 2017, the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides need-based scholarships to kids from low-income and working-class families to attend their best-fit school. This spring, I co-sponsored legislation to strengthen and extend Invest in Kids through 2024 and will continue to work on making the program permanent.

**State Representative Avery Bourne**

April 18, 2022

I am a proud school choice advocate and a strong supporter of this scholarship tax credit program. Every student in Illinois should have the opportunity to receive a great education regardless of where they live. I’m committed to both making the Invest in Kids Act permanent and working for ways to expand educational choice to more kids and families throughout Illinois.

**State Representative Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar**

December 5, 2022

During the last week of veto session, I had the opportunity to meet with the students and parents from @ctgalschool @stmarystarefosa St. Nicholas of Tolentine School to discuss the importance of InvestInKidsAct. Thank you Empower Illinois for stopping by with an active and energetic group. It is important for me to always hear from the parents and students regarding access to educational opportunities in IL, 22nd District.

#BuildingCommunity22 #educationinIL, 22ndDistrict Archdiocese of Chicago

**Ram Villivalam**

@senvillivalam

☑️ I met with students and families from our 8th State Senate District who benefit from the Invest in Kids Act.
OP-ED: THE INVEST IN KIDS ACT GIVES MINORITY CHILDREN ACCESS TO TOP-TIER SCHOOLS
By Daniel Lipinski. Chicago Tribune, February 2, 2022

Fortunately, the Illinois General Assembly passed the bipartisan Invest in Kids Act in 2017 to reform the public school funding formula and create a tax credit scholarship program that provides up to a full scholarship for families that qualify based on financial need. These scholarships are funded through private donations that are eligible for a 75% state income tax credit. The average scholarship recipient comes from a family of four making about $38,000.

Since 2018, the Scholarship Tax Credit Program has funded more than 28,000 scholarships totaling over $250 million, enabling students across Illinois to attend their best-fit school and have the opportunity to enjoy a life-changing education.

19 QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ILLINOIS GOVERNOR
By: Sun-Times staff and WBEZ Chicago ; Oct 18, 2022

“Do you support Illinois’ tax credit scholarship program that provides financial support for students to attend private and parochial schools?

“My main focus with respect to K-12 education is ensuring that there is sufficient funding for all children to receive a quality education, regardless of their zip code. That’s why I’ve dedicated an additional $1.3 billion toward public education during my term. With assurance from the advocates for Invest in Kids that they will support increased public school funding, my budgets have ultimately included the relatively small Invest in Kids Scholarship Program.”-Governor J.B. Pritzker

BILL TO IMPROVE INVEST IN KIDS ACT HEADS TO GOVERNOR
By WICS/WRSP Staff. News Channel 20, April 8, 2022

“A statewide scholarship program designed to help children attend private school is getting an update.

The change to the Invest in Kids Act passed both the house and senate unanimously Thursday, April 7, 2022.

The Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides need-based scholarships to kids from low-income and working-class families to attend their best-fit school.”

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRIVATE K-12 SCHOOLS THROUGH EMPOWER ILLINOIS
By: John Pertzborn. Fox2Now, January 28, 2022

“Low-income students may qualify for a generous scholarship to a private school k-12 and higher-income people who donate to the scholarship receive a large tax credit. It’s a twofer called Empower Illinois. Anthony Holter is the president of Empower Illinois. He explained the details of the program and how to get involved.”
Thank You!
TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DONORS

Thank you to our Tax Credit Scholarship Program donors championing education opportunities for all kids. Your commitment has increased access to quality education for kids who need it most and transformed thousands of lives.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS CORPORATE MATCH DONORS

Thank you to the businesses who encourage investments in Illinois communities by matching their employees’ charitable giving. Through these matching programs, an additional $308,381 supported 40 Illinois schools.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS DONORS

Thank you to our charitable donors. Your generosity has funded the policy advancement and advocacy activities that make sweeping educational change possible. Empower Illinois’ innovative technology, media and marketing work, and grassroots organizing would not be possible without your support.

Anonymous  
Peter and Beth Bensen  
John and Rita Canning  
CME Group Foundation  
CNA  
In Honor of Larry Cunningham  
Michael Dawson  
James Denny  
Aimee and Ryan Donovan  
DuPage Medical Group Charitable Fund  
Mike Fay  
Mary and Paul Finnegan  
Thomas Floyd  
Yehudis Gerstein  
Marge and Ward Hamm  
Tim and Cheryl Harms  
Mark and Mary Hoppe  
Roland Humphrey  
Mike Keiser  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Vince and Patricia Kolber  
Joseph and Anne Linnen  
Bill McIntosh  
Pasquesi Plumbing Corporation  
Jim and Molly Perry  
Perry Family Charitable Foundation  
Deborah Quazzo  
Michael Rittof  
John and Kathy Schreiber  
William and Janet Shipley  
Joel and Kai Sternstein  
Richard Stuemke  
Timothy and Sue Sullivan  
Tracy Family Foundation  
The Vallace Family  
Walton Family Foundation  
Michael Zolvinski